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April 18, 2026

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DELIMITATION ROW

**Stalin trying to get political dividend: EPS**

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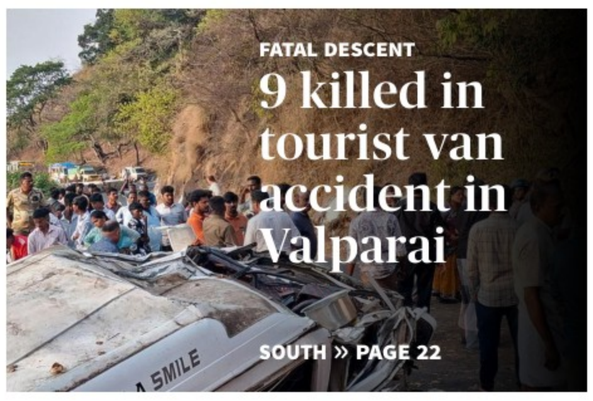

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**9 killed in tourist van accident in Valparai**

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**State hosts meet with diplomats**

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***How war on Iran set off worker protests in NCR***

*Wage hikes, dignity, and rising expenses collide*

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LEADING THE WAY

**Gill powers Titans to third straight victory**

SPORT » PAGE 17

## NEARBY

### Cong. seeks to contain fallout over suspensions

BENGALURU
A meeting between PWD Minister Satish Jarkiholi and KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar has fuelled fresh speculation over the possible revocation of MLC K. Abdul Jabbar's suspension from the Congress to control further damage. » PAGE 21

### KERC approves true-up charges

BENGALURU
The KERC approved an effective 56 paise per unit increase in electricity charges, with consumers to pay for a 'revenue gap' from power they had consumed in 2024-25, as Bescom moves to recover ₹2,068.38 crore. » PAGE 6

PROPERTYPLUS » PAGE 9

# Constitution Amendment Bill, part of delimitation package, defeated

The Bill falls short of the two-thirds mark of 352 votes, with 298 in favour and 230 against in the House where 528 members were present at the time of voting; Home Minister Amit Shah warns Opposition that it will face the 'wrath of women' voters

**Sobhana K. Nair**
**Sreeparna Chakrabarty**
NEW DELHI

A united Opposition on Friday defeated the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026, which sought to redistribute Lok Sabha seats on the basis of the 2011 Census to expedite the implementation of women's reservation.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah accused the Opposition of playing "ruthless politics" and warned that it would face the "wrath of women" voters. A total of 298 members voted in favour of the Bill and 230 against it, with the House strength at the time of voting being 528. It failed to meet the two-thirds majority mark of 352 required for a Constitution Amendment Bill to pass.

Following the defeat, the government withdrew two allied legislations – the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026, and the Delimitation Bill, 2026 – which were linked to the constitutional amendment.

The government extended the Budget session after a short interlude for deliberating on these Bills.

Mr. Shah said that the legislative package of three Bills was aimed at fulfilling two objectives – time-bound implementation of the women's reservation Bill for the 2029 general election and to apply the "foundational" democratic principle of "one person, one vote and one value".

Maintaining that the government remained committed to women's reservation, Mr. Shah said this was the "fifth time" that parties of the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance had stalled the legislation.

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, in a post on X, described the government's move to link women's reservation with delimitation based on the 2011 Census as a "hollow attempt" by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to project himself as the "messiah of women".

Responding to a key Opposition objection that the Bill lacked an explicit guarantee that representation of all States in the Lok Sabha would rise uniformly by 50%, Mr. Shah offered to move an amendment incorporating this assurance if the House agreed to suspend proceedings for an hour.

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» PAGES 14 & 15

### Opposition joins hands

Opposition parties defeated a Constitution Amendment Bill which sought to implement delimitation and increase Lok Sabha seats based on the 2011 Census

| Category | Number of MPs | Share |
|---|---|---|
| In favour | 298 | 56.4% |
| Against | 230 | 43.6% |
| Abstentions | 0 | 0% |
| Total present and voting | 528 | 100% |
| Required (2/3rd majority) | 352 | 66.7% |

**House vote:** Members of Parliament vote on the Constitution Amendment Bill, which was part of a delimitation legislative package, during a special session in New Delhi on Friday. PTI

# Iran declares Strait of Hormuz open; U.S. blockade to continue

**Stanly Johny**

A day after U.S. President Donald Trump announced a 10-day ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon, Iran said on Friday the Strait of Hormuz is "completely open" for commercial vessels for the remainder of the two-week U.S.-Iran truce.

Mr. Trump "thanked" Iran for reopening the waterway but said the U.S. blockade of Iranian ports would continue until there is a deal between Tehran and Washington. Oil prices fell on Friday after the strait was declared open.

"In line with the ceasefire in Lebanon, the passage for all commercial vessels through the Strait of Hormuz is declared completely open for the remaining period of the ceasefire, on the coordinated route as already announced by Ports and Maritime Organisation of Iran," Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi wrote in a social media post on Friday.

About 20% of the world's crude oil supply passed through the strait, which links the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea, before the U.S. and Israel launched their war on Iran. The waterway also carries a significant share of global LNG exports, mainly from Qatar.

A cargo ship in the Gulf, near the Strait of Hormuz. FILE PHOTO

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 14

# Congress MLA Vinay Kulkarni, 16 others sentenced to life for 2016 murder

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

A special court in Bengaluru on Friday sentenced Congress MLA and former minister Vinay Kulkarni and 16 others to imprisonment for life and imposed a fine of ₹30,000 each for the offences of criminal conspiracy and murder of a young BJP leader, Yageshgowda Goundar, in Dharwad district in 2016.

Santhosh Gajanan Bhat, judge of the special court of sessions for criminal cases against former and present MPs and MLAs, who had on April 15 convicted the 17 persons, pronounced the quantum of sentence on Friday for different offences under the Indian Pedal Code (IPC).

Vinay Kulkarni

For the offence of disappearance of evidence of offence and to screen offenders under Section 201 of the IPC, the court awarded imprisonment of seven years and ₹30,000 fine for each of the convicts.

Also, the court imposed sentence ranging from 6 months to seven years for offences like rioting, unlawful assembly, public servant framing incorrect record or writing with intent to save person from punishment, along with the fine ranging from ₹2,000 to ₹30,000 on each of the 17 convicts.

Other convicted are Vikram Ballari, Kirthi Kumar Basavaraj Kurahatti, Sandeep Saudatti, Vinayaka Katagi, Mahabaleshwar Hongal alias Muduka, Santhosh Saudatti, Dinesh M., Ashwath, Sunil, Nazeer Ahmed, Shahanawaz, Nuthan, Harshith, Chandrashekar Indi, Vikas Kalburgi, and Channakeshava B. Tingarikar.

The substantive sentences of imprisonment shall run concurrently, the court said while clarifying that the convicts are entitled for set-off for the period of detention which they have undergone in the above case as undertrial prisoners.

Out of the fine amount, the children of deceased Yogeshgouda, and his brother Gurunath Goudar are entitled for compensation of ₹16 lakh, and the remaining amount should be forfeited to the State, the court said.

Meanwhile, the court made the pardon, granted to the approver Basavaraja Muttagi, as absolute.

After pronouncement of sentence, the advocates of Kulkarni and other convicts made a request to the court to allow the convicts to use the fresh clothes until they are provided with necessary clothes by the prison authorities.

# No grades, marks will be awarded for SSLC 3rd language, State tells HC

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The State government has told the High Court of Karnataka that it will follow the existing system of awarding marks for the third languages during the evaluation of answer scripts of recently-concluded SSLC examinations instead awarding grades as was proposed recently.

This submission was made before the court by government counsel during the hearing of a petition, filed on April 8 by three students, Sahana R. Naik of Chikkamagaluru district, Anusha and Sudiksha of Udupi district. The petition was filed after Minister for School Education and Literacy Madhu Bangarappa's announcement, after the exams had begun but before the third langauge exam was held, that grading instead marking system will be adopted for third languages, including Hindi.

The court directed the authorities to conduct the evaluation of recently-conducted examination for SSLC as per the existing rules.

The petitioners had questioned the proposal to award grades for the third languages – Hindi (NCERT), Hindi, Kannada, English, Arebic, Urdu, Sanskrit, Konkani, Tulu and Marati – instead of marks contrary to the prevailing circular on evaluation system. The students had sought a direction to the authorities to award marks as per the circular issued by the Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board on October 28, 2025, in this regard.

When the petitioner came up for hearing before Justice E.S. Indiresh on April 15, Additional Government Advocate (AGA) H.K. Kenchegowda, told the court that "evaluation for the SSLC examination will be conducted as per the circular prevailing as on today" and not as per the proposal to award grades.

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THIRUVALLA SHOWROOM • MC Road
KOTTAYAM DIVISION SHOWROOMS
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THODUPUZHA SHOWROOM • Idukki Road
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# How imperious Sindarov staked his claim with a singular Candidates run

The Uzbekistan Grandmaster earned the privilege to challenge D. Gukesh for the World title in staggering fashion in Cyprus. The 20-year-old killed the competition at the Candidates, following his breakout performance at last year's World Cup with another statement triumph

**P.K. Ajith Kumar**

FIDE

JAVOKHIR SINDAROV

Arpora is a quiet but touristy village in northern Goa. It is typical Goa, in fact: beaches, foreign travellers – interestingly, many of them elderly people from the UK – bars and great food.

Back in October-November last year, many of the biggest names in world chess assembled at Arpora for the most prestigious knockout event in the sport. The format of the World Cup is such that your campaign, even if you are one of the strong favourites, could end early with just one bad move. Unlike most chess tournaments, which are played on a league basis, you just cannot afford a couple of poor games in a row: there is no comeback at the World Cup.

## The play of expectations

So at Arpora, even the top seed and reigning World champion, D. Gukesh, didn't last long. And he wasn't the only young Indian superstar to disappoint. The other three of the gifted quartet, R. Praggnanandhaa, Arjun Erigaisi and Nihal Sarin, failed to live up to the huge expectations of the host, too.

The expectations from Javokhir Sindarov ahead of the tournament weren't that high. The young Uzbek wasn't even his country's biggest hope: that honour belonged to Nodirbek Abdusattorov, the youngest World Rapid champion in history.

But in Goa, Abdusattorov was one of the several fallen stars. He was knocked out by Jose Martinez Alcantara in the third round. In the quarterfinals, the Peruvian Grandmaster, who represents Mexico, ran into Sindarov, who duly took revenge for his country.

After beating compatriot Nodirbek Yakubboev in the semifinals, Sindarov set up a final with China's Wei Yi, who had famously written a poem about his friend and former World champion Ding Liren. Wei didn't give Ding an opportunity to return the compliment. After both the classical games were drawn, Sindarov overcame Wei in the tense tie-breakers at Resort Rio.

A star was born.

But Sindarov, then 19, wasn't content being just a star. At a press conference, shortly after recording the biggest moment of his career at that point, he just couldn't stop smiling or laughing. And something that he said has aged well.

"I am very happy for sure, but it is only the start of my chess career, and I need to cross 2750 Elo points first," he said. "And of course it is my dream to win the Candidates tournament and thus play for the World title."

Earlier this week in the Cyprus city of Pegeia, Sindarov won the Candidates tournament. It is the event that decides the opponent of the reigning World chess champion.

That is a long-standing tradition in chess. The champion has the right to defend his title without having to play a single game. His challenger has to come through a gruelling process: first he has to qualify for the eight-player Candidates (the top three from the World Cup get direct tickets).

> Sindarov was brilliant in Cyprus. Look at the way he crushed a player like Nakamura. At this level, only Gukesh and Bobby Fischer have performed like that
>
> **PRAVIN THIPSAY**
> Grandmaster

After winning the Candidates, the challenger plays the champion in a World title match, a long series of games. Earlier, the defending champion could keep his title if he drew the match, while the challenger had to win. That rule has changed. Now even the champion has to win the match outright: an equal score would not do; tie-breakers, of shorter time controls, would be played.

## Mouthwatering clash

Sindarov will challenge Gukesh for the World title later this year. He earned that privilege in a staggering manner in Cyprus. Officially, he won the Candidates with a round to spare, after his draw with his closest – and only – rival Anish Giri in the 13th round. But, he had broken away from the field long before that and killed the competition.

He had a sensational start to his campaign, winning five of six games and drawing the other. And he maintained that distance from his rivals right through. It was the kind of a dominant performance that one rarely gets to see in top-level chess. In recent times, only Gukesh's incredible run at the Chennai Chess Olympiad of 2022 comes to mind.

The Chennai lad was just 16 at that time. And his show was even more spectacular than Sindarov's in Cyprus. Gukesh scored eight wins in a row on the top board, taking on the strongest players at the Olympiad.

Riding on Gukesh's dream run, and backed by solid performances from others, the young India-2 team was poised to take the gold, until its party was spoiled by – who else – Uzbekistan. Sindarov, on the third board, did contribute to his team's surprise victory.

Nobody would have thought at the time that Gukesh and Sindarov would be playing a World title match in just four years' time. Gukesh had sprung a surprise at the last Candidates, after making the cut at the last minute, thanks in no small measure to a tournament organised in Chennai.

This time around, it was Sindarov's turn to finish on top, ahead of stronger, more experienced rivals, including the top-seeded American duo of Hikaru Nakamura and Fabiano Caruana. The young man's triumph shouldn't be treated as a shock: he is extraordinarily talented – he became a Grandmaster at 12 – solid with his preparations, which was evident in Cyprus, sharp, fast and ambitious. And he played one of the best defensive games of late against Caruana.

Sindarov finished unbeaten in the 14-game double round-robin affair. After he got off to that dream start, he played sensibly. He knew he didn't have to do anything spectacular in the rest of the tournament. Having done the hard work to pull off all those wins, he knew he could afford to have some peaceful games in the latter half. The pressure was not on him; it was on the others, for whom he just looked too far away to catch up with.

Mumbai-based Grandmaster Pravin Thipsay admits he didn't quite expect the kind of performance Sindarov came up with at the Candidates.

> Sindarov can make the position sharper regardless of the position. And he knows how to complicate things when he doesn't need a draw
>
> **THIPSAY**

"At this level, only Gukesh and Bobby Fischer have performed like that," he tells *The Hindu* over the phone from Mumbai. "He was brilliant in Cyprus. Look at the way he crushed a player like Nakamura. Sindarov can make the position sharper regardless of the position. And he knows how to complicate things when he doesn't need a draw."

## Support system

Thipsay points out that State support has helped chess develop in Uzbekistan. "As in India, there are incentives for chess players in Uzbekistan," he says. "That wasn't the case earlier. When Uzbekistan won the silver at the Chess Olympiad on debut [in 1992], there was hardly any reward for the players from the government. But now the champion players from Uzbekistan are well supported by the government."

After winning the World Cup, Sindarov was greeted by Uzbekistan Prime Minister Abdulla Aripov at the Tashkent airport and gifted a three-bedroom apartment. The welcome on his return from Cyprus can only be warmer.

# STACKING UP

### ATP Men's Top 15

| # | Player | Age | Points | Events |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Jannik Sinner | 24 | 13,350 | 20 |
| 2 | Carlos Alcaraz | 22 | 13,240 | 18 |
| 3 | Alexander Zverev | 28 | 5,555 | 22 |
| 4 | Novak Djokovic | 38 | 4,710 | 17 |
| 5 | Felix Auger-Aliassime | 25 | 4,100 | 26 |
| 6 | Ben Shelton | 23 | 3,900 | 22 |
| 7 | Alex de Minaur | 27 | 3,895 | 22 |
| 8 | Taylor Fritz | 28 | 3,870 | 23 |
| 9 | Lorenzo Musetti | 24 | 3,625 | 22 |
| 10 | Daniil Medvedev | 30 | 3,560 | 24 |
| 11 | Alexander Bublik | 28 | 3,445 | 26 |
| 12 | Casper Ruud | 27 | 2,625 | 22 |
| 13 | Jiri Lehecka | 24 | 2,540 | 22 |
| 14 | Karen Khachanov | 29 | 2,410 | 24 |
| 15 | Andrey Rublev | 28 | 2,350 | 24 |

**Top Indians ▶**

Sumit Nagal
Rank 292 ▼ 5 spots

Karan Singh
Rank 434 ▼ 8 spots

### WTA Women's Top 15

| # | Player | Age | Points | Events |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Aryna Sabalenka | 27 | 11,025 | 20 |
| 2 | Elena Rybakina | 26 | 8,108 | 22 |
| 3 | Coco Gauff | 22 | 7,278 | 20 |
| 4 | Iga Swiatek | 24 | 7,263 | 20 |
| 5 | Jessica Pegula | 32 | 6,243 | 22 |
| 6 | Amanda Anisimova | 24 | 5,995 | 20 |
| 7 | Elina Svitolina | 31 | 3,965 | 16 |
| 8 | Jasmine Paolini | 30 | 3,907 | 20 |
| 9 | Mirra Andreeva | 18 | 3,611 | 21 |
| 10 | Victoria Mboko | 19 | 3,531 | 21 |
| 11 | Belinda Bencic | 29 | 3,090 | 19 |
| 12 | Karolina Muchova | 29 | 2,993 | 16 |
| 13 | Ekaterina Alexandrova | 31 | 2,886 | 26 |
| 14 | Linda Noskova | 21 | 2,801 | 23 |
| 15 | Naomi Osaka | 28 | 2,324 | 21 |

**Top Indians ▶**

Vaishnavi Adkar
Rank 385 ▼ 2 spots

Sahaja Yamalapalli
Rank 386 ▼ 2 spots

### English Premier League Standings

| # | Team | GP | W | D | L | GF | GA | GD | PTS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Arsenal | 32 | 21 | 7 | 4 | 62 | 24 | 38 | 70 |
| 2 | Man. City | 31 | 19 | 7 | 5 | 63 | 28 | 35 | 64 |
| 3 | Man. United | 32 | 15 | 10 | 7 | 57 | 45 | 12 | 55 |
| 4 | Aston Villa | 32 | 16 | 7 | 9 | 43 | 38 | 5 | 55 |
| 5 | Liverpool | 32 | 15 | 7 | 10 | 52 | 42 | 10 | 52 |
| 6 | Chelsea | 32 | 13 | 9 | 10 | 53 | 41 | 12 | 48 |
| 7 | Brentford | 32 | 13 | 8 | 11 | 48 | 44 | 4 | 47 |
| 8 | Everton | 32 | 13 | 8 | 11 | 39 | 37 | 2 | 47 |
| 9 | Brighton | 32 | 12 | 10 | 10 | 43 | 37 | 6 | 46 |
| 10 | Sunderland | 32 | 12 | 10 | 10 | 33 | 36 | -3 | 46 |
| 11 | Bournemouth | 32 | 10 | 15 | 7 | 48 | 49 | -1 | 45 |
| 12 | Fulham | 32 | 13 | 5 | 14 | 43 | 46 | -3 | 44 |
| 13 | Crystal Palace | 31 | 11 | 9 | 11 | 35 | 36 | -1 | 42 |
| 14 | Newcastle | 32 | 12 | 6 | 14 | 45 | 47 | -2 | 42 |
| 15 | Leeds United | 32 | 8 | 12 | 12 | 39 | 49 | -10 | 36 |
| 16 | N. Forest | 32 | 8 | 9 | 15 | 32 | 44 | -12 | 33 |
| 17 | West Ham | 32 | 8 | 8 | 16 | 40 | 57 | -17 | 32 |
| 18 | Tottenham | 32 | 7 | 9 | 16 | 40 | 51 | -11 | 30 |
| 19 | Burnley | 32 | 4 | 8 | 20 | 33 | 63 | -30 | 20 |
| 20 | Wolves | 32 | 3 | 8 | 21 | 24 | 58 | -34 | 17 |

### Italian Serie A Standings

| # | Team | GP | W | D | L | GF | GA | GD | PTS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Inter Milan | 32 | 24 | 3 | 5 | 75 | 29 | 46 | 75 |
| 2 | Napoli | 32 | 20 | 6 | 6 | 48 | 31 | 17 | 66 |
| 3 | AC Milan | 32 | 18 | 9 | 5 | 47 | 27 | 20 | 63 |
| 4 | Juventus | 32 | 17 | 9 | 6 | 55 | 29 | 26 | 60 |
| 5 | Como | 32 | 16 | 10 | 6 | 56 | 26 | 30 | 58 |
| 6 | Roma | 32 | 18 | 3 | 11 | 45 | 28 | 17 | 57 |
| 7 | Atalanta | 32 | 14 | 11 | 7 | 44 | 28 | 16 | 53 |
| 8 | Bologna | 32 | 14 | 6 | 12 | 42 | 37 | 5 | 48 |
| 9 | Lazio | 32 | 11 | 11 | 10 | 32 | 30 | 2 | 44 |
| 10 | Udinese | 32 | 12 | 7 | 13 | 38 | 42 | -4 | 43 |
| 11 | Sassuolo | 32 | 12 | 6 | 14 | 39 | 43 | -4 | 42 |
| 12 | Torino | 32 | 11 | 6 | 15 | 37 | 54 | -17 | 39 |
| 13 | Genoa | 32 | 9 | 9 | 14 | 38 | 45 | -7 | 36 |
| 14 | Parma | 32 | 8 | 12 | 12 | 23 | 40 | -17 | 36 |
| 15 | Fiorentina | 32 | 8 | 11 | 13 | 37 | 44 | -7 | 35 |
| 16 | Cagliari | 32 | 8 | 9 | 15 | 33 | 44 | -11 | 33 |
| 17 | Cremonese | 32 | 6 | 9 | 17 | 26 | 47 | -21 | 27 |
| 18 | Lecce | 32 | 7 | 6 | 19 | 21 | 45 | -24 | 27 |
| 19 | Verona | 32 | 3 | 9 | 20 | 23 | 55 | -32 | 18 |
| 20 | Pisa | 32 | 2 | 12 | 18 | 23 | 58 | -35 | 18 |

### Spanish LaLiga Standings

| # | Team | GP | W | D | L | GF | GA | GD | PTS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Barcelona | 31 | 26 | 1 | 4 | 84 | 30 | 54 | 79 |
| 2 | Real Madrid | 31 | 22 | 4 | 5 | 65 | 29 | 36 | 70 |
| 3 | Villarreal | 31 | 19 | 4 | 8 | 56 | 36 | 20 | 61 |
| 4 | Atletico Madrid | 31 | 17 | 6 | 8 | 51 | 32 | 19 | 57 |
| 5 | Real Betis | 31 | 11 | 13 | 7 | 45 | 38 | 7 | 46 |
| 6 | Celta Vigo | 31 | 11 | 11 | 9 | 44 | 40 | 4 | 44 |
| 7 | Real Sociedad | 31 | 11 | 9 | 11 | 49 | 48 | 1 | 42 |
| 8 | Getafe | 31 | 12 | 5 | 14 | 27 | 32 | -5 | 41 |
| 9 | Osasuna | 31 | 10 | 9 | 12 | 37 | 38 | -1 | 39 |
| 10 | Espanyol | 31 | 10 | 8 | 13 | 37 | 48 | -11 | 38 |
| 11 | Girona | 31 | 9 | 11 | 11 | 33 | 45 | -12 | 38 |
| 12 | Athletic Club | 31 | 11 | 5 | 15 | 33 | 45 | -12 | 38 |
| 13 | Rayo Vallecano | 31 | 8 | 11 | 12 | 29 | 38 | -9 | 35 |
| 14 | Valencia | 31 | 9 | 8 | 14 | 34 | 46 | -12 | 35 |
| 15 | Real Mallorca | 31 | 9 | 7 | 15 | 39 | 48 | -9 | 34 |
| 16 | Sevilla | 31 | 9 | 7 | 15 | 39 | 51 | -12 | 34 |
| 17 | Alaves | 31 | 8 | 9 | 14 | 35 | 46 | -11 | 33 |
| 18 | Elche | 31 | 7 | 11 | 13 | 39 | 47 | -8 | 32 |
| 19 | Levante | 31 | 7 | 8 | 16 | 35 | 50 | -15 | 29 |
| 20 | Real Oviedo | 31 | 6 | 9 | 16 | 24 | 48 | -24 | 27 |

### German Bundesliga Standings

| # | Team | GP | W | D | L | GF | GA | GD | PTS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Bayern | 29 | 24 | 4 | 1 | 105 | 27 | 78 | 76 |
| 2 | Dortmund | 29 | 19 | 7 | 3 | 60 | 29 | 31 | 64 |
| 3 | Stuttgart | 29 | 17 | 5 | 7 | 60 | 38 | 22 | 56 |
| 4 | RB Leipzig | 29 | 17 | 5 | 7 | 56 | 36 | 20 | 56 |
| 5 | Leverkusen | 29 | 15 | 7 | 7 | 59 | 39 | 20 | 52 |
| 6 | Hoffenheim | 29 | 15 | 6 | 8 | 57 | 43 | 14 | 51 |
| 7 | E. Frankfurt | 29 | 11 | 9 | 9 | 54 | 54 | 0 | 42 |
| 8 | SC Freiburg | 29 | 11 | 7 | 11 | 42 | 47 | -5 | 40 |
| 9 | Mainz | 29 | 8 | 9 | 12 | 35 | 44 | -9 | 33 |
| 10 | FC Augsburg | 29 | 9 | 6 | 14 | 36 | 53 | -17 | 33 |
| 11 | Union Berlin | 29 | 8 | 8 | 13 | 33 | 50 | -17 | 32 |
| 12 | Hamburg | 29 | 7 | 10 | 12 | 32 | 45 | -13 | 31 |
| 13 | Cologne | 29 | 7 | 9 | 13 | 43 | 50 | -7 | 30 |
| 14 | M'gladbach | 29 | 7 | 9 | 13 | 35 | 49 | -14 | 30 |
| 15 | Werder | 29 | 7 | 7 | 15 | 32 | 52 | -20 | 28 |
| 16 | St Pauli | 29 | 6 | 7 | 16 | 25 | 50 | -25 | 25 |
| 17 | Wolfsburg | 29 | 5 | 6 | 18 | 39 | 65 | -26 | 21 |
| 18 | Heidenheim | 29 | 4 | 7 | 18 | 32 | 64 | -32 | 19 |

### Test Batting

| # | Player | Rating | Career best |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Joe Root | 880 | 932 |
| 2 | Harry Brook | 857 | 898 |
| 3 | Travis Head | 853 | 884 |
| 4 | Steve Smith | 831 | 947 |
| 5 | Kane Williamson | 822 | 919 |
| 6 | Kamindu Mendis | 781 | 784 |
| 7 | Temba Bavuma | 775 | 806 |
| 8 | Yashasvi Jaiswal | 750 | 858 |
| 9 | Saud Shakeel | 734 | 787 |
| 10 | Shubman Gill | 730 | 807 |

### Test Bowling

| # | Player | Rating | Career best |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Jasprit Bumrah | 879 | 908 |
| 2 | Noman Ali | 843 | 853 |
| 3 | Mitchell Starc | 838 | 852 |
| 4 | Matt Henry | 836 | 853 |
| 5 | Pat Cummins | 832 | 914 |
| 6 | Marco Jansen | 825 | 825 |
| 7 | Scott Boland | 820 | 820 |
| 8 | Kagiso Rabada | 807 | 902 |
| 9 | Josh Hazlewood | 775 | 864 |
| 10 | Nathan Lyon | 753 | 812 |

### ODI Batting

| # | Player | Rating | Career best |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Daryl Mitchell | 840 | 840 |
| 2 | Virat Kohli | 791 | 908 |
| 3 | Ibrahim Zadran | 756 | 756 |
| 4 | Rohit Sharma | 748 | 879 |
| 5 | Shubman Gill | 716 | 841 |
| 6 | Babar Azam | 684 | 894 |
| 7 | Shai Hope | 679 | 782 |
| 7 | Harry Tector | 679 | 730 |
| 9 | K.L. Rahul | 664 | 676 |
| 9 | Salman Agha | 664 | 664 |

### ODI Bowling

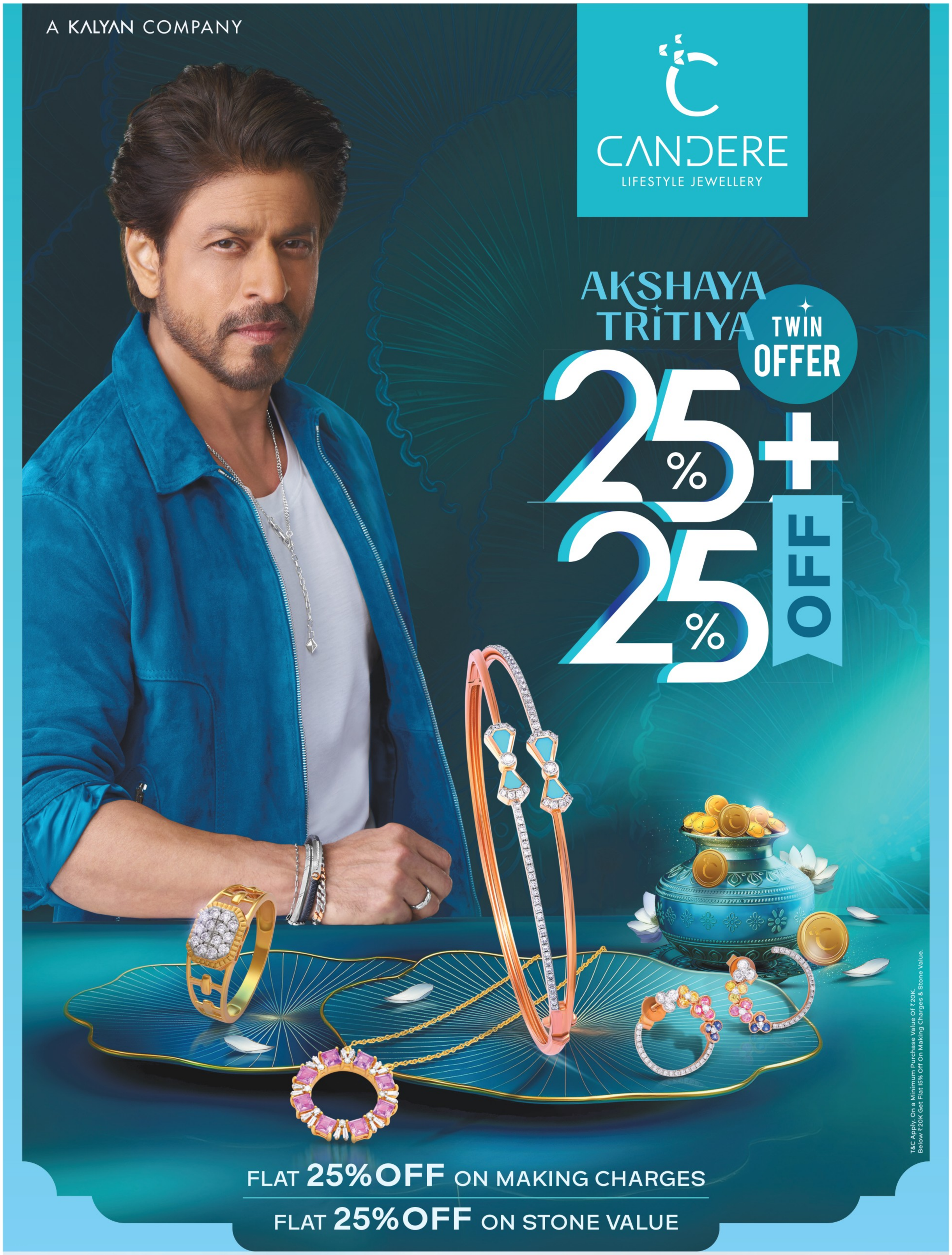
| # | Player | Rating | Career best |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Rashid Khan | 705 | 775 |
| 2 | Jofra Archer | 649 | 682 |
| 3 | Keshav Maharaj | 645 | 737 |
| 4 | Adil Rashid | 629 | 671 |
| 5 | Josh Hazlewood | 626 | 725 |
| 6 | Mehidy Hasan | 624 | 722 |
| 6 | Maheesh Theekshana | 624 | 680 |
| 6 | Kuldeep Yadav | 624 | 757 |
| 9 | Mitchell Santner | 617 | 656 |
| 10 | Matt Henry | 600 | 688 |

### T20I Batting

| # | Player | Rating | Career best |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Abhishek Sharma | 875 | 931 |
| 2 | Ishan Kishan | 871 | 871 |
| 3 | Sahibzada Farhan | 848 | 848 |
| 4 | Phil Salt | 792 | 881 |
| 5 | Pathum Nissanka | 766 | 796 |
| 6 | Tilak Varma | 742 | 845 |
| 7 | Suryakumar Yadav | 722 | 912 |
| 8 | Jos Buttler | 716 | 794 |
| 9 | Tim Seifert | 712 | 749 |
| 10 | Dewald Brevis | 702 | 738 |

### T20I Bowling

| # | Player | Rating | Career best |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Rashid Khan | 753 | 828 |
| 2 | Varun Chakaravarthy | 740 | 818 |
| 3 | Abrar Ahmed | 736 | 757 |
| 4 | Adil Rashid | 721 | 747 |
| 5 | Jasprit Bumrah | 702 | 783 |
| 6 | Adam Zampa | 682 | 746 |
| 7 | Corbin Bosch | 669 | 745 |
| 8 | Matthew Forde | 667 | 679 |
| 9 | Mustafizur Rahman | 665 | 718 |
| 10 | Mujeeb Ur Rahman | 663 | 757 |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# Expert committee recommends reducing CSE seats by 17%

The panel has also recommended that institutions cannot start more than five computer science-related courses

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The expert committee headed by S. Sadagopan, formed to examine a proposal capping of Computer Science Engineering (CSE) seats, has recommended that intake of any private university/private engineering college in CSE and related courses or any stream cannot cross 900.

The committee, which has submitted its report to the Higher Education Department recently, has also recommended that institutions cannot start more than five computer science-related courses.

In the backdrop of over 9,000 CSE seats going vacant in State engineering colleges last academic year, the committee has recommended the reduction of CSE seats by 17% from 2026-27.

Instead, the report suggests the government should integrate Artificial Intelligence (AI) with all core subject streams and divert the freed CSE seats to Core+AI courses. Capping CSE seats alone risks brain drain, the report said.

In the backdrop of over 9,000 CSE seats going vacant in State engineering colleges last academic year, the committee has recommended the reduction of CSE seats by 17% from 2026-27. FILE PHOTO

The committee also recommended a nine-step formula for rebalancing the seat allocation in colleges for CSE and Core+AI courses. There is no uniform cut imposed. An institution where CS placements are strong will sustain a high demand value and its seat trajectory will be protected. From 2026-27, adjustments are triggered only where the vacancy signal confirms reduced demand, making the trajectory empirically grounded and dynamically responsive, rather than administratively imposed, the report said.

The committee also recommended embedding AI and Machine Learning as analytical instruments in all undergraduate disciplines, rather than as standalone electives, with mathematics as the backbone. It suggested mandating test-to-failure product labs every semester starting from 2027-28, anchored in active learning and professional ethics. Additionally, it aims to scale Core+AI competent core engineering output from 22,000 to 75,000 graduates per year.

Meanwhile, for new institutions, it has recommended an initial intake of 60 students for a given course for any private university or private engineering college. Further, an increment of 60 students per year can be allowed, subject to a maximum total of 180 seats for the first four years.

To ensure quality, the committee recommended a mandatory NBA (National Board of Accreditation) certificate for institutions whose intake exceeds 300 in a particular discipline within two years from the date of publication of these regulations. However, the Higher Education Department can initiate action against institutions that fail to follow the guidelines.

To maintain standards in higher education, the committee recommended periodic inspections of private universities every two years, as well as surprise visits by the committee constituted by the Karnataka State Higher Education Council.

# Develop century-old schools in State as heritage institutions: KDA to govt.

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

There are a total of 3,139 schools in Karnataka that are over a century old as on December, 2025. At least 31 among them, one in each district where prominent people have studied, should be developed as "Heritage Schools", recommended a report submitted by the Kannada Development Authority (KDA) to the government.

Purushottama Bilimale, Chairman of KDA, submitted a report on century-old government schools to School Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa on Friday.

During the inspection of the century-old schools, the KDA listed several shortcomings in their upkeep.

"Earlier, a total of 240 schools were developed from the ₹25 crore fund allocated by the government, but the project was later discontinued," the authority said. It also looked at reasons for decline in enrolment in many government-run, Kannada medium schools.

Purushottama Bilimale

Among its recommendations, the KDA said that schoos where luminaries like Sir. M. Visvesvaraya, Sir Mirza Ismail, Kuvempu, Da.Ra. Bendre, Shantaveri Gopala Gowda, Masti Venkatesh Iyengar and Kengal Hanumanthaiah studied should be picked out by the governemnt, at least one each in all 31 districts, made into heritage schools and establish a small museum about them. The report proposes that these schools, which should aim to provide modern, secular education, should be seen as part of the historical identity of the State.

"A separate cell should be established in the Education Department for the management and development of century-old schools. The Department should undertake a comprehensive study of these schools at the district level," said the report, adding that the department itself is unaware of the historical value of some of them.

Further the report stated that one century-old school in each taluk should be selected and developed as a learning and exhibition centre for the history, geographical features, environmental details and other aspects of that taluk. Science labs, history and environmental labs should be provided to the century-old upper primary schools. "They should be considered as special priority schools and permanent appointments of teachers should be made," it said.

The KDA has also proposed that there should be a public discussion on the process of granting permission to private schools within short distance of century-old schools.

"The government should direct the MLAs to allocate at least 10% of the area development fund for the development of government schools in their constituencies, especially century-old schools," said the report.

# Cabinet approves AI Centre of Excellence at E-City

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The State Cabinet has approved the establishment of a Centre of Excellence for Artificial Intelligence in Biotechnology (AI-CoE) at the Institute of Bioinformatics and Applied Biotechnology (IBAB) in Electronics City (Phase 1), Bengaluru.

The centre will be set up over a period of four years with a total outlay of ₹20 crore, in partnership with IBAB and the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms (C-CAMP).

"As we enter the decade of deep tech, our focus is on building future-ready capabilities at the intersection of Artificial Intelligence and biotechnology. This Centre of Excellence will strengthen our research ecosystem, accelerate innovation, and enable Karnataka to lead in high-impact, next-generation technologies," said Priyank Kharge, Minister for Rural Development & Panchayat Raj and IT & Biotechnology, on Thursday.

Priyank Kharge

He added that the State government, through its Departments of Electronics, IT, Biotechnology, and Science & Technology, is proactively investing in emerging technologies, and taking decisive steps to strengthen the State's AI and deep tech ecosystem.

The Cabinet has also approved the transfer of a 51% stake in the Karnataka Technology & Innovation Museum Foundation (KTIMF) to Unboxing BLR Foundation.

The museum will be developed on the NGEF campus at Baiyappanahalli, in east Bengaluru, under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, with a total project cost of ₹100 crore. Of this, ₹49 crore will be contributed by the State government and ₹51 crore by the private partner.

# Traffic warden team to be launched to ease congestion in Tumakuru

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Following a similar initiative by the Bengaluru Traffic Police, the Tumakuru District Police have launched a Traffic Warden Team initiative, seeking public participation to help manage rising traffic congestion in Tumakuru city.

According to officials, the move is aimed not only at easing congestion on busy roads but also at strengthening police-public relations and instilling a sense of traffic discipline and road safety among citizens. This will also ease the workload of police personnel on the ground.

With Tumakuru witnessing rapid urban growth and a steady increase in vehicle numbers, the police said the initiative would involve volunteers assisting traffic personnel in regulating movement and improving overall traffic management. Citizens willing to dedicate their time to support police duties have been invited to join the programme.

Individuals aged between 21 and 65 who are physically fit can apply. Eligible participants include retired government employees, ex-servicemen, businesspersons, NCC and NSS students, members of NGOs and resident welfare associations, auto and taxi union members, corporate CSR volunteers, and the general public.

The Traffic Warden Team will assist police at busy junctions, create awareness on road safety, report traffic violations, alert authorities during accidents or congestion, and provide support during festivals and special events. Traffic wardens will help pedestrians cross roads, guide vehicles in congested areas, report violations, conduct awareness programmes in schools and colleges, and inform the police in case of accidents. However, officials clarified that wardens would not have the authority to impose fines.

Those who are interested can contact Purushottam M.L., Additional Superintendent of Police, at 94808 02905.

# Meet proposes framework for digital mental health tools

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

A national governance framework, a verified directory of apps, and digital literacy initiatives were among key recommendations put forward at a consultative meeting on the safe use of digital technologies in mental healthcare convened by NIMHANS.

The recommendations emerged from a three-day national consultation on digital technologies for mental health held from April 15 to 17 by the NIMHANS- Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Centre for Advanced Research on Digital Interventions for Mental Health Care. The meeting was held in collaboration with the Services for Healthy Use of Technology (SHUT) Clinic, under the guidance of the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

Experts at the meeting proposed constituting a high-powered committee to develop a national, tiered governance framework for mental health applications. FILE PHOTO

Experts at the meeting proposed constituting a high-powered committee to develop a national, tiered governance framework for mental health applications. Establishing a national directory for voluntary listing of apps meeting minimum standards, creating an end-user-friendly repository of applications, launching a digital mental health literacy course for service providers, and disseminating stakeholder-specific guidelines after approval from the Union Health Ministry were among the other recommendations.

The consultation, attended by about 90 participants from government, academia, international organisations and civil society, comes amid concerns over the rapid proliferation of digital mental health tools and rising technology overuse among young people.

NIMHANS Director Prabha S. Chandra said there is a need for multi-stakeholder collaboration in advancing digital mental health systems, along with dedicated centres to generate evidence and build capacity for effective integration of these tools into healthcare systems.

Harsh Mangala, Union Joint Secretary (Mental Health), said the consultation was timely, and highlighted the importance of government engagement in scaling technology-based solutions for mental health. "Digital transformation remains a central pillar in strengthening healthcare delivery in India," the official said.

In a video message, Punya Salila Srivastava, Union Health Secretary, said the meeting reflected "a strong commitment to advancing informed and nationally relevant policy dialogue on the role of digital technology in mental health."

Lauding NIMHANS for deliberating on such a crucial issue, Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said the consultation marked a step towards evolving guidelines to ensure the safe, ethical and effective use of digital technologies in mental healthcare.

# Climate-resilient water initiative launched in Chickballapur

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

A new initiative to strengthen the climate and disaster resilience of water and wastewater systems across six small towns in the State was launched in Chickballapur district on Friday.

The project titled 'Building Small Town Water Resilience in Chickballapur District' will assess water and used water systems, develop technical guidelines, and conduct capacity development activities across Bagepalli, Chintamani, Chickballapur, Gudibande, Gowribidanur and Sidlaghatta. It aims to use the infrastructure, service delivery, and risk analyses to identify measures that will improve water resilience and support the safe and effcient reuse of water in these places.

Dignitaries during the launch of an initiative aimed at strengthening the climate and disaster resilience of water and wastewater systems, in Chickballapur district on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Funded by Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure and implemented by the Indian Institute for Human Settlements in collaboration with the district administration, the project will be implemented from April 2026 to March 2028.

The initiative will provide technical assistance to local governments to assess water and wastewater systems, integrate climate and disaster risk into planning processes, and develop actionable strategies for resilient and efficient infrastructure deployment and service delivery. The programme will also focus on capacity building, enabling local institutions to adopt data-driven and risk-informed approaches to infrastructure planning.

The initiative forms part of the CDRI's Urban Infrastructure Resilience Programme (UIRP), a global effort that supports cities and towns in integrating disaster and climate resilience into infrastructure planning, operation and maintenance, augmenting investments, ensuring sustainable and resilient urban growth.

A drought-prone region facing increasing pressures on the water resources due to the combined impact of climate variability, groundwater depletion and rapidly transforming settlement and economic profile, Chickballapur district was selected as part of a global cohort and was chosen from more than 100 proposals across the globe.

"By integrating technical assistance, data-driven planning, and institutional capacity building, we are supporting cities and towns in transitioning to proactive, resilience-led infrastructure development. Local governments are being equipped to make climate and disaster risk central to planning and investment-building infrastructure that is not just efficient, but built to last," said Aaron Schubert, Director, Regional and Country Programmes, CDRI.

Amir Bazaz, head, Infrastructure and Climate, IIHS, noted that a key outcome of the initiative is to enable the selected towns to incorporate climate and disaster risk information into water and used water infrastructure systems. "This includes conducting risk assessments, water balance studies, and long-term scenario modelling, alongside the development of technical guidelines and planning frameworks that can inform future investments," he said.

Beyond its local impact, the initiative is expected to generate replicable approaches for small towns across India and the world.

# Domestic Workers' Union calls for welfare board

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Domestic Workers' Union (KSDWU) has appealed to Labour Minister Santosh Lad to form the social security welfare board for domestic workers in the State at the earliest.

During a meeting with the Minister, AITUC Domestic Workers' Union conveners Divya Biradar, Rajalakshmi R., Girija Y.D., and M. Jayamma submitted a petition, which included demands such as the creation of a welfare board, specification of minimum wages, social security, job security, paid leave, and menstrual leave for the domestic workers in Karnataka.

The union, in the letter, pointed out that despite the Minister's assurances to establish a separate welfare board for domestic workers, the Bill regarding the same was not tabled in the Belagavi and Budget sessions of the legislature.

"We demand that the State government immediately pass and implement the proposed Domestic Workers' Social Security Welfare Board Bill," read the letter. It is estimated that more than 20 lakh women in Karnataka earn a livelihood by doing domestic work.

GETTY IMAGES

# Fabregas' Como takes the road less travelled through Serie A

In a league known for defensive solidity, the lakeside club plays a brand of fluid, attacking football. In just its second season in the Italian top-flight in a quarter of a century, Como is in contention for a Champions League spot. Its rise and style under the former Spain midfielder have won admirers — but they have also ruffled the feathers of the established order

**Reuters**
**Agence France-Presse**

Forty-five minutes into its match against Serie A leader Inter Milan last weekend, Como was in dreamland. Unbeaten for almost two months and looking to hold on to fourth place and the final Champions League berth, the Cesc Fabregas-coached club was up by two goals.

Inter, which had arrived lakeside looking to take another step towards a 21st league title, had been rocked by the host. Como created a stream of chances while restricting the Nerazurri largely to attempts from distance. Youthful virtuoso Nico Paz had a part in both goals, forcing a save that led to Alex Valle's opener and sending an angled finish that doubled the lead.

### Dictating play

Como wasn't merely ahead, it was dictating play with the sort of attacking football that has both won admirers and ruffled feathers in Serie A. Although it couldn't hold on to its advantage, Inter coming back to win 4-3, there is little doubt that Como has exceeded expectations in just its second top-flight season in a quarter of a century. After 32 rounds, it sits fifth on the table with 58 points, two behind Juventus, which occupies the final Champions League spot.

> We cannot forget that we are only at the beginning of a journey, not even halfway through it. The path is ours. We cannot forget that and start acting like we are something we are not
>
> **CESC FABREGAS**
> Como coach

"My team showed me what we're capable of and played with desire and courage," Fabregas told *DAZN Italia*. "Two years ago, anyone telling me we'd be competing with Inter like this would have been talking about a friendly; today we are on equal terms. The stats confirm we had 20 shots on Inter's goal – something few sides achieve. I am very proud of my players; for two and a half years we have worked hard, and the progress is clear."

The progress certainly is clear. A traditionally tiny club, and one more experienced with lower league football and bankruptcies than playing the continent's elite, Como was in Italy's third tier seven years ago when the Indonesian billionaire Hartono brothers acquired it through tobacco giant Djarum. It is now in contention to make its European debut, in the Champions League!

Even accounting for the fact that Como has Serie A's richest owners, who are willing to outspend bigger rivals, the club's rise has been staggeringly quick. "We cannot forget that we are only at the beginning of a journey, not even halfway through it," said Fabregas. "The path is ours. We cannot start acting like we are something we are not. People are enjoying the journey; seven years ago we were a slightly more provincial side in Serie D, now we're making progress with young players and it's hard not to fall in love with them for everything they give."

Fabregas has been central to Como's project. The former Spain midfielder ended his playing career at Como in 2023, with the club competing in Serie B, and began his managerial career there, helping it gain promotion as assistant coach and taking over as manager last season. After a difficult start in 2024-25, Fabregas, also a minority stakeholder in Como, pulled the side clear of the relegation zone and guided it to 10th.

Fabregas and Como have done even better in 2025-26, putting together a phenomenal season. The results have been truly spectacular, but the manner in which they have been achieved is what makes its story one of world football's most compelling.

In a league known for defensive solidity, where denying the opposition space is the priority, Como has played some of the most fluid, interesting and attacking football in Italy since Gian Piero Gasperini's Atalanta. And in a league wedded to three-man backlines, Fabregas has often employed the 4-2-3-1 and 4-3-3 with fast, dribbling wingers and a positionally rotating midfield. Playing with courage is the mantra, progression and penetration the ambition.

### Stylistic influences

Given Fabregas' education at La Masia, and his time under Arsene Wenger (Arsenal) and Pep Guardiola (Barcelona), the style of play he wants to coach isn't surprising. But the former midfield maestro has also drawn from Jose Mourinho and Antonio Conte, who managed him at Chelsea and are known more for their structure and tactical nous, not expansive football.

> I don't want to be the coach that always has the same way of playing. Yes, you have principles and structures. I want to be as complete as possible. I also want to be as dominant as possible
>
> **FABREGAS**

"Since I got here, I've been studying Italian football," Fabregas told *DAZN*. "Lots of them play man-to-man, and this has made me a better coach because I've gone to bed every night for three years thinking: 'How can I help my players find solutions to teams that play man-to-man all over the pitch, teams that don't press the goalkeeper.'

"We analysed every tactical structure that exists in football and asked, what do we think is the best way to attack this structure? I don't want to be the coach that always has the same way of playing. Yes, you have principles and structures. But I want to be as dominant as possible, and nowadays to be dominant, you need to have as many solutions as possible."

Fabregas isn't merely a deep thinker of the game. He is also an avid watcher, looking for ideas and inspiration. "I am seeing a lot of matches lately," he said. "It helps me understand various dynamics, I love to see the ideas of these coaches, and hope to pass some of those on."

The opportunity to work with Fabregas has brought young talent, who might not otherwise have opted to move to Como, even with its picturesque setting on the shores of the famous lake. Real Madrid academy prospect Paz is the perfect case in point. The gifted Argentine playmaker has flourished under Fabregas. So has Greek forward Anastasios Douvikas. Both are second on the list of Serie A's top-scorers with 11 goals, behind Lautaro Martinez's 16. Assane Diao, Jayden Addai, Martin Baturina and Jesus Rodriguez, all of whom had little to no experience at senior level, have developed during their time with Fabregas, who, together with Como's analytics team, has filled out a young squad with bargain pick-ups.

While Fabregas' methods and Como's rise have attracted praise, they have also generated hostility, especially among supporters of Italy's established order. Juventus coach Luciano Spalletti has been complimentary, but AC Milan manager Massimiliano Allegri called Fabregas "a child" and "an idiot" after the Como coach pulled the shirt of Milan wing-back Alexis Saelemaekers near the touchline – an unsporting act. And in another match, Gasperini, who now coaches Roma, refused to shake Fabregas' hand.

### Challenges ahead

Both Fabregas and Como know that resistance follows success in the cut-throat business of competitive sport. They also know that the challenge to continue performing at a high level will only increase as Como loses the benefit of surprise. Moreover, its best players will attract suitors; Fabregas himself is being courted by some of Europe's top clubs. But now isn't the time to think about that, given that earning a maiden European spot is within reach.

"When things go well, we stay humble," said Fabregas. "When they don't, we stay calm because we know where we want to go."

CESC FABREGAS

## GAME THEORY

### Champions on the dirt

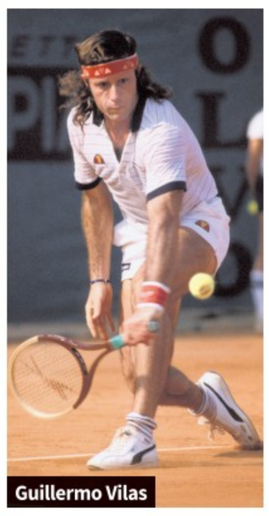
With tennis' clay season underway, we list the most prolific title winners on the surface in the Open Era (the current era of professional tennis, which began in 1968 when the Grand Slams allowed professional players to compete with amateurs).

| MOST TITLES ON CLAY: WOMEN (OPEN ERA) | |
|---|---|
| Chris Evert | 70 |
| Steffi Graf | 32 |
| Margaret Court | 22 |
| Evonne Goolagong | 20 |
| Arantxa Sanchez | 19 |
| Conchita Martínez | 19 |
| Martina Navratilova | 18 |
| Monica Seles | 14 |
| Justine Henin | 13 |
| Serena Williams | 13 |
| **MOST TITLES ON CLAY: MEN (OPEN ERA)** | |
| Rafael Nadal | 63 |
| Guillermo Vilas | 49 |
| Thomas Muster | 40 |
| Bjorn Borg | 32 |
| Ilie Nastase | 31 |
| Manuel Orantes | 31 |
| Ivan Lendl | 28 |
| Jose Luis Clerc | 21 |
| Novak Djokovic | 21 |
| Mats Wilander | 20 |

Chris Evert

Steffi Graf

Rafael Nadal



Guillermo Vilas

SOURCE: WTA, ATP

## PICTURE THIS

GETTY IMAGES

### Fabled greens

Since 1934, the Masters Tournament has been home to some of golf's most iconic moments.

There is no tournament the game's finest players prize higher — winning on the scenic grounds of the Augusta National golf course gilds a legacy like few other events do.

A part of players' fascination with the Masters has to do with the fact that it is always held at the same host venue, unlike the other three Majors.

The pressure of winning the event causes even great players to 'choke'. "At Augusta, I sometimes do things that I wouldn't normally do because of what it is," said Rory McIlroy, who finally broke his Masters drought last year and successfully defended his title last weekend.

The golf course was formerly a plant nursery; each hole is named after a tree or shrub. The first hole, for instance, is Tea Olive, a 445-yard par-4.

The tournament's legacy isn't straightforward, however. It continues to face criticism over its documented history of racial exclusion, which includes a ban on black players until 1975 and a lack of diversity in the club's membership.

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# 9 of family killed in road accident in Yadgir

**The Hindu Bureau**
YADGIR

The car and the bus that were gutted in the accident at near Shantapur village in Shorapur taluk of Yadgir district, on Friday.

Nine persons were killed and another was injured when the car in which they were travelling in collided with a private bus and went up in flames near Shantapur village in Shorapur taluk of Yadgir district Bidar-Srirangapatna National Highway 150 (A), on Friday.

The accident occurred when a car carrying 10 passengers, including five adults and five children from Shorapur, was on its way to Sirwar in Raichur district. It collided head-on with a bus coming from Bengaluru to Kalaburagi. The occupants were returning to Sirwar after visiting the Sri Venugopal Swamy temple in Shorapur.

Four passengers were were killed on the spot and four others were charred to death after both vehicles caught fire immediately after the accident.

However, all the 20 passengers in the private bus escaped unhurt even as the vehicle was completely gutted. The people who gathered at the accident spot pulled out two survivors from the car and shifted them to the local hospital. While of of them died on the way to hospital, the other is undergoing treatment.

Superintendent of Police Pruthvik Shankar gave the names of the deceased as Krishna Nayak 52, his wife Anantha Kala, 45; Sharanappa, 36; his wife Nisarga, 30; his sons Siddhartha, 3 and Advik, 5; daughter Srinidhi, 18 months; Shashikala, 30, and her son Chandan, 8. The only survivor, Shashikala's son Virat, 10, is undergoing treatment at a Kalaburagi hospital, and his condition is stated to be stable.

# Leopard strays into Mysuru home, captured safely

**The Hindu Bureau**
MYSURU

**The animal, around 3 to 4 years old, was first noticed around 8 a.m. by a house help, who spotted it hiding under a cot while cleaning**

A leopard that strayed into a house on Vinaya Marga in Siddhartha Layout, in the heart of Mysuru city on Friday, was successfully captured by forest personnel, bringing immense relief to the family and residents of the locality.

The animal, estimated to be around 3 to 4 years old, was first noticed around 8 a.m. by a house help, who spotted it hiding under a cot while cleaning a room. She immediately alerted the house owner, Suresh, and his wife, Sujatha.

In a tense situation, Suresh's 90-year-old mother was asleep on the same cot under which the leopard had taken shelter. Displaying remarkable presence of mind, Sujatha carefully entered the room and safely escorted her mother-in-law out. Suresh then quickly locked the room and informed forest authorities.

A team of forest officials, accompanied by veterinarians, rushed to the spot. According to Mysuru Zoo Assistant Director Shashidhar, the leopard weighed approximately 40 to 45 kg.

After assessing the situation and taking necessary precautions, the veterinary team tranquillised the animal. Once sedated, the leopard was carefully netted and safely removed from the house. The entire rescue operation was carried out smoothly.

Forest authorities suspect the animal may have strayed from the nearby Chamundi Hills, a known leopard habitat. Interestingly, forest officials had earlier visited the area following reports of a leopard sighting. The same animal was later discovered hiding inside Suresh's residence.


**JOIN TERRITORIAL ARMY AS AN OFFICER**
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**ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS**
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- Age Limits: 18 to 42 years as on last day of filing of application. Educational Qualification: Graduate from any recognized university.
- Physical Standards: A candidate must be physically and medically fit in all respects.
- Employment: Gainfully Employed.

- **DATE OF ONLINE EXAM** : **12 JULY 2026**.
  **Note :** The date of holding the examination as mentioned above is liable to be changed at the discretion of the competent authority.
- **HOW TO APPLY:** Candidates are required to apply online by using the website **www.indianarmy.nic.in**. No other mode is allowed for submission of application.
- **SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS:** The online registration and applications can be filled from **20 Apr 2026** to **19 May 2026** after which the link will be disabled.
- **FEE DETAILS:** Candidates are required to pay a fee of Rs 500/- (Rupees five hundred only).

**NOTE** :
1. Recruitment/ Commissioning in the Territorial army is totally transparent and free. Beware of touts.
2. For detailed notification please visit www.indianarmy.nic.in regularly.

**cbc10120/11/0002/2627**



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
Ministry of Finance
Department of Financial Services
**DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - I, BENGALURU**
BSNL Building, 4th Floor, Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road, Bangalore - 560 001

**WARRANT OF ATTACHMENT OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**
(See Sec.25 and Sec 29 of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 read with Section 48 of the II Schedule to the Income Tax Act, 1961 )
**RC No. 522/2024 IN Case No. OA No.1038/2021**

**State Bank of India,** RASMEC Hosur Branch, at Sri Vaari Building, Plot No. 2, SIPCOT Industrial Estate, Phase -1 Zuzuvadi, Hosur, Tamil Nadu - 635126. **....Certificate Holder/ Applicant**
**V/s**
**(CD 1) Sri Mahesh Naik K.,** S/o. Sri Khimavath Divakar Naik, Residing at: No. 156/8-119, GF, 21st Cross, Bhagavathi Layout, Near Raghavendraswamy Temple, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560 076. **....Certificate Debtor**

**To : Certificate Debtor**
Whereas, **Sri Mahesh Naik K.,** (CD 1) was ordered by the Recovery Certificate **No. 522/2024** of this Tribunal passed on the day of **02.11.2023** in **OA No. 1038/2021** issued by the Hon'ble Presiding Officer of this Tribunal, the debts amount of **Rs.50,72,785.00** (Rupees Fifty Lakhs Seventy Two Thousands Seven Hundred and Eighty Five Only) along with interest and cost till realization is due from the certified debtors, namely, Sri Mahesh Naik K., and the said Certified Debtors have filed to pay the dues.
The outstanding liability in this matter as on 10.10.2025 is **Rs.68,89,415/-** (Rupees Sixty Eight Lakhs Eighty Nine Thousand Four Hundred and Fifteen Only) and whereas the said has amount along with cost, expenses and future interest are not paid by you, the undersigned has ordered the sale of under mentioned immovable property.
Whereas since the above said dues have not been paid by the Certificate Debtors, this is to command you to attach the immovable property of the said Certificate Debtors as set forth in the schedule hereunto annexed, and unless the Certificate Debtor, shall pay to you the above said sum and costs of this attachment, to hold the same until further orders from the Recovery Officer.
You are further commanded to return the warrant on or before **23.01.2026** with an endorsement certifying the day on which and the manner in which it has been executed, or why it has not been executed.

**SCHEDULE PROPERTY : (DETAILS OF MORTGAGED PROPERTY**
Apartment bearing No. A-117 of 'A' Block, now bearing Bidaraguppe Grama Panchayat e-Khatha No. 150200100200320719 Flat No. 248/A-117 on the First Floor, of the building known as " Sigma Serenity", measuring 1007 square feet of super built up area containing 2BHK together with one covered car parking space with 372 square feet of undivided share, right, title and interest in the property bearing New Sy. No. 223, (Old Sy. No. 173) of the converted land to an total extent of 2 Acres, vide Conversion Order No. AL.N(A)(A)SR/107/2010-11, dated 17.03.2010, situated at Indlabere Villae, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District and bounded on the East by : Sarjapura Main Road, West by : Sy. No. 173, North by : Sy. No. 180 & 181 and South by : Sai Layout.
Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on **20.11.2025.**
**Sd/- (P. H. Hemanth Kumar IRS,) Recovery Officer- II**



**कार्यालय अधिशाषी अभियंता, राजस्थान राज्य कृषि विपणन बोर्ड, खण्ड अजमेर**
राजकाज क्रमांक :- 21622193 दिनांक :- 16/04/2026
**बिड आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या 01/2026-27 (NIB No AGM2627A0014)**
जिला अजमेर, नागौर एवम् डीडवाना–कुचामन में विभिन्न भवन निर्माण/मरम्मत के कार्य लागत राशि क्रमशः रू. 27.52, 18.05, 14.76, 6.42, 18.35 एवं 412.85 लाख की ऑन–लाईन बिड् ई–प्रोक्यूरमेन्ट (www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in) के माध्यम से आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा से संबंधित विस्तृत विवरण वेबसाइट http://agriculture.rajasthan.gov.in/rsamb एवं sppp.raj.nic.in (UBN No. AGM2627WSOB00057 to 62 ) पर भी दिनांक 22.04.2026 से देखा जा सकता है।
राज.संवाद/सी/26/992 अधिशाषी अभियंता



**RAJASTHAN STATE HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY, JAIPUR**
**No. As per RajKaj ref No.**
**NIT No. 02/2026-27**
Bids for Authority's Engineer Services for Upgradation, Development and Maintenance of Dudu to Bhatipura section of SH-02 from Design Chainage Km 130+680 (Existing chainage- 130+680 i.e. intersection with Jaipur-Kishangarh expressway) to Km 169+250 (Existing Chainage- Km 170+050 i.e. Intersection with SH-90)) (length 38.570 km.) in the state of Rajasthan on EPC Mode. (Package No WB/RHMP/EPC/AE/05) are invited from the interest bidders upto 11:00 AM on 15.05.2026 Other particulars of the bid may be visited on website https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in. The approximate value or civil works is Rs. 161.30 Crores.
**UBN No. (PWD2627SLOB00614)**
**DIPR/C/7001/2026** **Member, RSHA, Jaipur**



**TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF TELANGANA LIMITED**
**e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE**
The TGTRANSCO invites online Bids for the following works. **Name of the works: Spec. No. TGT-CONST-e-01/2026-27** - Supply erection, testing and commissioning of **Lot-I:** 33KV features at 400/220KV SS Asupaka in Bhadradri Kothagudem District. **Lot-II:** 2nd circuit stringing on existing 132KV Budidampadu — Yellandu DC/SC line (30Km) and connected Bays in Khammam District on Turnkey basis. Note: Further details can be @ http://www.eprocurement.telangana.gov.in. Phone No. 040-23396000, Extn: 3242, 3396, 3407, 3338. Fax No. 040-23336171.
Sd/-
R.O. No. : 39-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/2026-27 Dt: 17.04.2026 Chief Engineer/Construction-II



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
Ministry of Finance
Department of Financial Services
Office of the Recovery Officer -1
**DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-1, BENGALURU**
4th Floor, Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road, Bangalore - 560 001

**NOTICE FOR SETTLING A SALE PROCLAMATION**
( Under Rule 53 of the Second Schedule to the Income Tax Act, 1961, Read with the Recovery of Debts & Bankruptcy Act, 1993
**RC No. 444/2024 IN Case No. OA No.28/2022**

**State Bank of India,** RASMEC Hosur Branch, at Sri Vaari Building, Plot No. 2, SIPCOT Industrial Estate, Phase -1 Zuzuvadi, Hosur, Tamil Nadu - 635126. **....Certificate Holder/ Applicant**
**V/s**
**(CD 1) Sri Udaya Kumara K.** S/o. Sri Kamalanathan, Residing at : No. 10MIG, 8th Block, Koramangala, 6th Block, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560 095. **....Certificate Debtor**

**To : Certificate Debtor**
Whereas, **Sri Udaya Kumara K** (CD 1) was ordered by the Recovery Certificate **No. 444/2024** of this Tribunal passed on the day of **11.10.2023** in **OA No. 28/2022** issued by the Hon'ble Presiding Officer of this Tribunal, the debts amount of **Rs.52,50,956.00** (Rupees Fifty Two Lakhs Fifty Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty Six Only) along with interest and cost till realization is due from the certified debtors, namely, Sri Udaya Kumara K. and the said Certified Debtors have filed to pay the dues.
The outstanding liability in this matter as on 10.10.2025 is **Rs.62,92,485.08** (Rupees Sixty Two Lakhs Ninety Two Thousand Four Hundred and Eighty Five and Paise Eight Only) and whereas the said has amount along with cost, expenses and future interest are not paid by you, the undersigned has ordered the sale of under mentioned immovable property.
You are hereby informed that the day on after 15th day from the date of service of this notice has been fixed for drawing up the proclamation of sale and settling the terms thereof. You are requested to bring to the notice of the undersigned any encumbrances, charges, claims or liabilities attaching to the said properties or any portion thereof.

**SCHEDULE PROPERTY (DETAILS OF MORTGAGED PROPERTY**
Apartment bearing No. A-016 of 'A' Block, now bearing Bidaraguppe Grama Panchayat e-Khatha No. 150200100200320572, Flat No. 248/A-016 on the Ground Floor, of the building known as " Sigma Serenity", measuring 1066 square feet of super built up area containing 3BHK together with one covered car parking space with 386 square feet of undivided share, right, title and interest in the property bearing New Sy. No. 223, (Old Sy. No. 173) of the converted land to an total extent of 2 Acres, vide Conversion Order No. AL.N(A)(A)SR/107/2010-11, dated 17.03.2010, situated at Indlabere Villae, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District and bounded on the East by : Flat No. A-014, West by : Flat No. A-018, North by : Open Space, and South by : Flat No.A- 015.
Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on **20.11.2025.**
**Sd/- (P. H. Hemanth Kumar IRS,) Recovery Officer- II**



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
Ministry of Finance
Department of Financial Services
**DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - I, BENGALURU**
BSNL Building, 4th Floor, Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road, Bangalore - 560 001

**WARRANT OF ATTACHMENT OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**
(See Sec.25 and Sec 29 of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 read with Section 48 of the II Schedule to the Income Tax Act, 1961 )
**RC No. 76/2024 IN Case No. OA No.832/2021**

**State Bank of India,** RASMEC Hosur Branch, at Sri Vaari Building, Plot No. 2, SIPCOT Industrial Estate, Phase -1 Zuzuvadi, Hosur, Tamil Nadu - 635126. **....Certificate Holder/ Applicant**
**V/s**
**(CD 1) Sri Keshava S.,** S/o. Sri Srinivas Tiptur Saheshachari, Residing at : No. 19, 2nd Floor, 6th Cross, Javaraiah Garden, 3rd Block, Thyagarajanagar, Bengaluru- 560 028.
**(CD 2) Sri Harish S.** S/o. Sri Srinivas Tiptur Saheshachari, Residing at : No. No. 19, 2nd Floor, 6th Cross, Javaraiah Garden, 3rd Block, Thyagarajanagar, Bengaluru- 560 028. **....Certificate Debtor**

**To : Certificate Debtor**
Whereas, **Sri Keshava S., and Sri Harish S.** (CD 1 and CD 2) was ordered by the Recovery Certificate **No. 76/2024** of this Tribunal passed on the day of **28.04.2023** in **OA No. 832/2021** issued by the Hon'ble Presiding Officer of this Tribunal, the debts amount of **Rs.51,59,365/-** (Rupees Fifty One Lakhs Fifty Nine Thousands Three Hundred and Sixty Five Only) along with interest and cost till realization is due from the certified debtors, namely, Sri Keshava S., and Sri Harish S. and the said Certified Debtors have filed to pay the dues.
The outstanding liability in this matter as on 10.10.2025 is **Rs.70,06,654.13** (Rupees Seventy Lakhs Six Thousand Six Hundred and Fifty Four and Paise Thirteen Only) and whereas the said has amount along with cost, expenses and future interest are not paid by you, the undersigned has ordered the sale of under mentioned immovable property.
Whereas since the above said dues have not been paid by the Certificate Debtors, this is to command you to attach the immovable property of the said Certificate Debtors as set forth in the schedule hereunto annexed, and unless the Certificate Debtor, shall pay to you the above said sum and costs of this attachment, to hold the same until further orders from the Recovery Officer.
You are further commanded to return the warrant on or before **23.01.2026** with an endorsement certifying the day on which and the manner in which it has been executed, or why it has not been executed.

**SCHEDULE PROPERTY : (DETAILS OF MORTGAGED PROPERTY**
Apartment bearing No. A-117 of 'A' Block, now bearing Bidaraguppe Grama Panchayat e-Khatha No. 150200100200320719 Flat No. 248/A-117 on the First Floor, of the building known as " Sigma Serenity", measuring 1007 square feet of super built up area containing 2BHK together with one covered car parking space with 372 square feet of undivided share, right, title and interest in the property bearing New Sy. No. 223, (Old Sy. No. 173) of the converted land to an total extent of 2 Acres, vide Conversion Order No. AL.N(A)(A)SR/107/2010-11, dated 17.03.2010, situated at Indlabere Villae, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District and bounded on the East by : Sarjapura Main Road, West by : Sy. No. 173, North by : Sy. No. 180 & 181 and South by : Sai Layout.
Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on **20.12.2025.**
**Sd/-** (P. H. Hemanth Kumar IRS), Recovery Officer- II



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
Ministry of Finance
Department of Financial Services
**DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - I, BENGALURU**
BSNL Building, 4th Floor, Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road, Bangalore - 560 001

**WARRANT OF ATTACHMENT OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**
(See Sec.25 and Sec 29 of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 read with Section 48 of the II Schedule to the Income Tax Act, 1961 )
**RC No. 150/2023 IN Case No. OA No.1113/2021**

**State Bank of India,** RASMEC Hosur Branch, at Sri Vaari Building, Plot No. 2, SIPCOT Industrial Estate, Phase -1 Zuzuvadi, Hosur, Tamil Nadu - 635126. **....Certificate Holder/ Applicant**
**V/s**
**(CD 1) Sri Shankar G.** S/o. Sri Gangappa,Residing at : No. 109, J-Cross, Srinivasapur Colony, BSK 6th Phase, 11th Block, Kengeri, Bengaluru - 560 060.
**(CD 2) Smt. Manjusha** W/o. Sri Shankar G ., Residing at :No. 109, J-Cross, Srinivasapur Colony, BSK 6th Phase, 11th Block, Kengeri, Bengaluru - 560 060. **....Certificate Debtors**
Whereas, **Sri Shankar G. and Smt. Manjusha** (CD 1 and CD 2) was ordered by the Recovery Certificate No. 150/2023 of this Tribunal passed on the day of 31.10.2022 in OA No. 1113/2021issued by the Hon'ble Presiding Officer of this Tribunal, the debts amount of **Rs.48,69,957/-** (Rupees Forty Eight Lakhs Sixty Nine Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty Seven Only) along with interest and cost till realization is due from the certified debtors, namely, Sri Shankar G. and Smt. Manjusha and the said Certified Debtors have filed to pay the dues.
The outstanding liability in this matter as on 10.10.2025 is **Rs.66,46,155/-** (Rupees Sixty six Lakhs Forty Six Thousand One Hundred and Fifty Five Only) and whereas the said has amount along with cost, expenses and future interest are not paid by you, the undersigned has ordered the sale of undermentioned immovable property.
Whereas since the above said dues have not been paid by the Certificate Debtors, this is to command you to attach the immovable property of the said Certificate Debtors as set forth in the schedule hereunto annexed, and unless the Certificate Debtor, shall pay to you the above said sum and costs of this attachment, to hold the same until further orders from the Recovery Officer.
You are further commanded to return the warrant on or before **23.01.2026** with an endorsement certifying the day on which and the manner in which it has been executed, or why it has not been executed.

**SCHEDULE PROPERTY : (DETAILS OF MORTGAGED PROPERTY**
Apartment bearing No. A-015 of 'A' Block, now bearing Bidaraguppe Grama Panchayat e-Khatha No. 150200100200320571, Flat No. 248/A-015 on the Ground Floor, of the building known as " Sigma Serenity", measuring 1007 square feet of super built up area containing 2BHK together with one covered car parking space with 372 square feet of undivided share, right, title and interest in the property bearing New Sy. No. 223, (Old Sy. No. 173) of the converted land to an total extent of 2 Acres, vide Conversion Order No. AL.N(A)(A)SR/107/2010-11, dated 17.03.2010, situated at Indlabere Villae, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District and bounded on the East by : Sarjapura Main Road, West by : Sy. No. 173, North by : Sy. No. 180 & 181 and South by : Sai Layout.
Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on **20.11.2025**
**Sd/-** (P. H. Hemanth Kumar IRS)
Recovery Officer- II



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
Ministry of Finance
Department of Financial Services
Office of the Recovery Officer -1
**DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-1, BENGALURU**
4th Floor, Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road, Bangalore - 560 001

**NOTICE FOR SETTLING A SALE PROCLAMATION**
( Under Rule 53 of the Second Schedule to the Income Tax Act, 1961, Read with the Recovery of Debts & Bankruptcy Act, 1993
**RC No. 522/2024 IN Case No. OA No.1038/2021**

**State Bank of India,** RASMEC Hosur Branch, at Sri Vaari Building, Plot No. 2, SIPCOT Industrial Estate, Phase -1 Zuzuvadi, Hosur, Tamil Nadu - 635126. **....Certificate Holder/ Applicant**
**V/s**
**(CD 1) Sri Mahesh Naik K.,** S/o. Sri Khimavath Divakar Naik, Residing at: No. 156/8-119, GF, 21st Cross, Bhagavathi Layout, Near Raghavendraswamy Temple, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560 076. **....Certificate Debtor**

**To : Certificate Debtor**
Whereas, **Sri Mahesh Naik K.,** (CD 1) was ordered by the Recovery Certificate **No. 522/2024** of this Tribunal passed on the day of **02.11.2023** in **OA No. 1038/2021** issued by the Hon'ble Presiding Officer of this Tribunal, the debts amount of **Rs.50,72,785.00** (Rupees Fifty Lakhs Seventy Two Thousands Seven Hundred and Eighty Five Only) along with interest and cost till realization is due from the certified debtors, namely, Sri Mahesh Naik K., and the said Certified Debtors have filed to pay the dues.
The outstanding liability in this matter as on 10.10.2025 is **Rs.68,89,415/-** (Rupees Sixty Eight Lakhs Eighty Nine Thousand Four Hundred and Fifteen Only) and whereas the said has amount along with cost, expenses and future interest are not paid by you, the undersigned has ordered the sale of under mentioned immovable property.
Whereas since the above said dues have not been paid by the Certificate Debtors, this is to command you to attach the immovable property of the said Certificate Debtors as set forth in the schedule hereunto annexed, and unless the Certificate Debtor, shall pay to you the above said sum and costs of this attachment, to hold the same until further orders from the Recovery Officer.
You are further commanded to return the warrant on or before **23.01.2026** with an endorsement certifying the day on which and the manner in which it has been executed, or why it has not been executed.

**SCHEDULE PROPERTY : (DETAILS OF MORTGAGED PROPERTY**
Apartment bearing No. A-117 of 'A' Block, now bearing Bidaraguppe Grama Panchayat e-Khatha No. 150200100200320719 Flat No. 248/A-117 on the First Floor, of the building known as " Sigma Serenity", measuring 1007 square feet of super built up area containing 2BHK together with one covered car parking space with 372 square feet of undivided share, right, title and interest in the property bearing New Sy. No. 223, (Old Sy. No. 173) of the converted land to an total extent of 2 Acres, vide Conversion Order No. AL.N(A)(A)SR/107/2010-11, dated 17.03.2010, situated at Indlabere Villae, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District and bounded on the East by : Sarjapura Main Road, West by : Sy. No. 173, North by : Sy. No. 180 & 181 and South by : Sai Layout.
Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on **20.11.2025.**
**Sd/- (P. H. Hemanth Kumar IRS,) Recovery Officer- II**



**IN THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL AT VISAKHAPATNAM**
**Gr & 1st Floor, Sri Narayana Bhavan, Sai Baba Street, Dabagardens, Visakhapatnam - 530 020. Andhra Pradesh.**
**Case No. OA. 1206/2025**
**Summons under Sub Section 4 of Section 19 of the Act read with sub-rule 2A of rules 5 of RDBI Rules, 1993.**
**Between:**
**State Bank of India, Stressed Assets Recovery Branch,**
D.No. 54-20-1B, 3F/U6, 3rd Floor, Upstairs of KFC,
Surya Prakash Square, Gurunanak Nagar Road,
Vijayawada-520 008, rep. by its Chief Manager.
**... APPLICANT BANK**
**And:**
**1. Nalagotla Jhansi Rani**
**2. Venati Bala Subramanyam Reddy**
**3. Sri. Venati Leela Mohan**
**4. Smt. Venati Himaja .... DEFENDANTS**
To,
**1. Def-3** Sri. Venati Leela Mohan S/o. Bala Subramanyam Reddy, D.No. 230, G-1, BMR Homes, 6th A-Cross, Opp. Water Tank, OMBR Layout, Banaswadi, Bangalore-560043.

**SUMMONS TO THE DEFENDANTS**
**BY THE WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION**

**WHEREAS, OA/1206/2025 filed was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/Registrar 22-04-2026.**
WHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons/ notices on the said Application under section 19(4) of the Act, **OA-1206/2025** filed against you for recovery of debts of **Rs. 2,86,02,270.69/- ps** (Application and copies of document enclosed).
In Accordance with **sub-section (4) of the Sec 19** of the Act you the defendants are directed as under:-
**(i)** To show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted.
**(ii)** To disclose particulars of properties or assets other than the properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application.
**(iii)** You are restrained from dealing with or disposing of security assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment.
**(iv)** You shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/ or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal;
**(v)** You shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realized by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank financial institution holding security interest over such assets.
You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before the **Presiding Officer/Registrar** on **22-04-2026 at 10:30 A.M.** failing the application shall be heard and decided in your absence,
Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this Date: **15-04-2026.**
**Signature of the Officer**
**Authorised to issue Summons.**



**IN THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL AT VISAKHAPATNAM**
**Gr & 1st Floor, Sri Narayana Bhavan, Sai Baba Street, Dabagardens, Visakhapatnam - 530 020. Andhra Pradesh.**
**Case No. OA. 1202/2025**
**Summons under Sub Section 4 of Section 19 of the Act read with sub-rule 2A of rules 5 of RDBI Rules, 1993.**
**Between:**
**State Bank of India, Stressed Assets Recovery Branch,**
D.No. 54-20-1B, 3F/U6, 3rd Floor, Upstairs of KFC,
Surya Prakash Square, Gurunanak Nagar Road,
Vijayawada-520 008, rep. by its Chief Manager.
**... APPLICANT BANK**
**And:**
**1. Smt. Venati Himaja**
**2. Sri. Venati Bala Subramanyam Reddy**
**3. Sri. Venati Leela Mohan .... DEFENDANTS**
To,
**1. Def-3** Sri. Venati Leela Mohan S/o. Bala Subramanyam Reddy, D.No. 230, G-1, BMR Homes, 6th A-Cross, Opp. Water Tank, OMBR Layout, Banaswadi, Bangalore-560043.

**SUMMONS TO THE DEFENDANTS**
**BY THE WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION**

**WHEREAS, OA/1202/2025 filed was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/Registrar 22-04-2026.**
WHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons/ notices on the said Application under section 19(4) of the Act, **OA-1202/2025** filed against you for recovery of debts of **Rs. 2,75,06,315.86/- ps** (Application and copies of document enclosed).
In Accordance with **sub-section (4) of the Sec 19** of the Act you the defendants are directed as under:-
**(i)** To show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted.
**(ii)** To disclose particulars of properties or assets other than the properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application.
**(iii)** You are restrained from dealing with or disposing of security assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment.
**(iv)** You shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/ or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal;
**(v)** You shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realized by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank financial institution holding security interest over such assets.
You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before the **Presiding Officer/Registrar** on **22-04-2026 at 10:30 A.M.** failing the application shall be heard and decided in your absence,
Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this Date: **15-04-2026.**
**Signature of the Officer**
**Authorised to issue Summons.**



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**PERSONAL**
**LOST & FOUND**
**I, CHAITHANYA** Teja R K have lost my Original 10th ICSE marks cards (2015) migration certificate and all other formal documents, Roll number(UID)–5999490. If found please contact–8217861605

**LEGAL NOTICE**
**IN THE COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE, MACHILIPATNAM**
**E.P. No.48/2024 IN O.S.No.37/2019**
Between :
**Gadiraju Venkata Krishnam Raju** ...D.Hr
AND
**Vemula Gangadhara Rao @ Gandhi** And another ...J.Drs
To:
**J.Dr 2) Lakshmi Narasimhan,**
W/o. Narasimhan, Resident of 17/B, 2nd Cross, Munireddy layout, Chikkalasandra, Bangalore-61, Karnataka State.
Please take Sale notice that as you are evading taking Sale notices send by the Honourable Court in the above E.P. In the above matter was posted for your appearance on **27.04.2026.** Hence you are hereby directed to appear before the above number mentioned court **on 27.04.2026 at about 10.30 a.m.** personally or through Advocate and to file objections otherwise, the Honourable Court will decide the matter in your absence.
**Adjournment dated 27.04.2026**
(by order of the court)
**Seetala Prasad, Advocate for D.Hr**
**Machilipatnam ✆ 9848483819**

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is to inform the general public that my client intends to purchase 'Schedule' Property (more-fully described herein below) from **Mrs. C. Shakuntala, w/o C. Sudhakar Naidu,** residing at No. 243, Vaddarapalya, Banashankari 5th Stage, Subramanyapura Post, Bengaluru-560 061. who claims to be the sole and absolute owner in possession and enjoyment of the property, and to ensure that the same is free from all encumbrances.

It is hereby informed to the general public that any person / bank / financial institutions / statutory authorities etc., having any claim, charge, mortgage, right, title, interest etc., in respect thereof, are hereby requested to make the same known to the undersigned in writing supported by documents within a period of **fifteen (15)** days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the claim of such persons / banks / financial institutions / statutory authorities will be deemed to have been waived and/or abandoned and my client shall proceed to complete the proposed transaction.

**SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY**

All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing Site No. **66, S. Rama Rao Layout, Banashankari, Bengaluru,** within BBMP Ward No. 163, New Municipal No. 66, PID No. 54-246-66, situated at S. Rama Rao Layout, Khathriguppe, BSK 3rd Stage, Bengaluru, measuring 40 ft East–West and 60 ft North–South (2,400 sq. ft), bounded on:
**East by:** Site No. 65
**West by:** Site No. 67
**North by:** Site No. 76
**South by:** Road
Together with an RCC-roofed house comprising parking on the Ground Floor, 20 sq. mt. each on First, Second and Third Floors, and 12 sq. mt. on the Terrace Floor, with granite flooring, Jungle-wood doors and windows, and all civic amenities.

**Deepika S,** Advocate
No 213,1st B Main Road, Kengeri Satellite Town, Bengaluru - 560 060
Email: deepika.advt859@gmail.com
**Place: Bangalore** **Date: 18-04-2026**

The letter alleges an imbalance in departmental focus, with traction-related activities receiving more attention and recognition compared to E&M functions. K. MURALI KUMAR

# BMRCL's staff submit representation over operational concerns

**Darshan Devaiah B.P.**
BENGALURU

Some employees of the Electrical and Mechanical (E&M) Department of Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) have submitted a collective representation to the Managing Director of BMRCL, highlighting a series of operational and administrative concerns that they said were affecting efficiency, staff morale, and system reliability.

In a recent letter that was accessed by *The Hindu*, the staff members pointed out that senior officers currently overseeing E&M functions were recruited under the Traction/Rolling Stock domain and may lack adequate exposure to core E&M systems.

This, they claim, has led to gaps in technical guidance and decision-making at higher levels, placing additional pressure on mid-level managers and field staff.

The representation notes that managers and assistant managers are frequently engaged in multiple meetings, reducing their availability for core operational responsibilities. As a result, section engineers and maintenance teams are reportedly facing challenges in receiving timely technical support, impacting maintenance quality and response times. Employees also flagged an increase in pending work, including preventive and breakdown maintenance, warning that delays could affect overall system reliability if not addressed promptly. Planning activities such as tendering, manpower deployment, and maintenance scheduling have also reportedly been delayed or insufficiently prioritised.

The letter further alleges an imbalance in departmental focus, with traction-related activities receiving more attention and recognition compared to E&M functions. Staff also expressed concern over training opportunities, claiming that certain specialised programmes, including overseas training, were extended to personnel outside the E&M cadre, bypassing experienced staff within the department.

In their appeal, the employees have requested a confidential internal assessment to gather feedback from the E&M staff, appointment of suitably qualified personnel with relevant domain expertise to leadership roles, and corrective measures to improve transparency, efficiency, and staff confidence. The representation has been signed collectively by the E&M department staff.

A senior BMRCL official told *The Hindu*, "We are in receipt of the representation. Currently, an internal investigation is under way and required remedial action shall be taken accordingly."

According to a source in the BMRCL, the E&M Department of BMRCL is responsible for maintaining all critical non-train systems essential for the smooth functioning of metro operations. This includes power supply and distribution within stations, escalators and lifts, airconditioning and ventilation systems, fire detection and firefighting infrastructure, as well as water and plumbing facilities.

"The department also manages many things in the metro operations, ensuring passenger safety and comfort. Through regular maintenance and timely response to breakdowns, the E&M wing plays a crucial role in ensuring that metro stations remain operational, safe, and commuter-friendly," an official source added.

# Mechanic hacked to death

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

A 25-year-old mechanic was hacked to death allegedly by his friend in an empty plot near Sarjapur on Thursday evening.

The deceased has been identified as Mohan, a native of a village in Tamil Nadu. The accused, Manoj, 25, from the same village, has been arrested.

The incident took place around 6 p.m. near an empty plot close to Mattanahalli Lake. The two men were reportedly consuming alcohol when an argument broke out over a petty issue.

The altercation escalated, and Manoj allegedly attacked Mohan, hitting his head with a heavy object. After the assault, he fled the scene, leaving Mohan bleeding.

Hours later, a passerby spotted the body and alerted the police. Based on credible leads, the police tracked down and arrested the accused.

# NCB destroys drugs worth ₹38 crore

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The Narcotics Control Bureau's (NCB) Bengaluru Zonal Unit on Friday carried out a large-scale drug disposal drive, destroying seized narcotics worth an estimated ₹38 crore as part of its ongoing crackdown on drug trafficking.

**Drugs incinerated**

A total of 128.75 kg of narcotics linked to 13 cases was incinerated at a certified facility. The destroyed substances included ganja, hydroponic ganja, cocaine, methamphetamine, and MDMA. Officials said the process was carried out in an environmentally compliant manner, adhering to prescribed safety and pollution control norms.

**Previous drive**

This is the second such disposal drive conducted this year. Earlier, on February 5, around 1,607 kg of narcotics worth ₹11 crore were destroyed. With the latest exercise, the NCB Bengaluru Zonal Unit has disposed of a total of 1,735 kg of drugs valued at ₹49 crore so far this year. The agency said the initiative is aimed at preventing seized narcotics from re-entering the circulation chain.

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH**
**General Administration (Training) Dept.**

No. 3216417, **NOTIFICATION** Dated: 17.04.2026

Applications are invited for appointment to the post of **Director General (Non-Cadre), Andhra Pradesh Human Resource Development Institution (APHRDI),** General Administration Department. The post shall be filled by a Non- Cadre on contract basis. Last date for submission of applications :Within 10 days from publication of notification. Detailed notification, eligibility criteria, terms & conditions and application format are available at: **gad.ap.gov.in**

**Sd/- Principal Secretary to Government (Political)**

**DIPR 20152/CL, Dt.17-04-2026**

# Mysuru to get connectivity boost with new flight to Hyderabad from May 1

**The Hindu Bureau**
MYSURU

Amid growing demand for enhanced air connectivity, Mysuru is set to get an additional flight service to Hyderabad from May 1, boosting travel and tourism prospects.

At present, Mysuru is connected by air to Chennai and Hyderabad, but the frequency remains limited.

Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar, Member of Parliament from Mysuru-Kodagu, said the new flight will depart Mysuru at 2.20 p.m. and reach Hyderabad at 4 p.m.

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A respected leader in business, patron of sports and
social causes who served as

**Chairman, Tattva Group**

Honorary Consul for Republic of Latvia, Consular Districts of Tamil Nadu and Kerala
President, World Squash Federation (2008 – 2016)
President, Indian Olympic Association (2014 – 2017)
President, Asia-Pacific Down Syndrome Federation

**He leaves behind an enduring legacy of leadership, integrity and philanthropy, shaping enterprise, nurturing sports and supporting community causes**

**OM SHANTI**

REKHA RAMACHANDRAN
BABLI | RAHUL | MAYA | DHRUVA | ARJUN | KABIR
Family and Friends

# CCB unearths IPL ticket black marketing racket

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Bengaluru Central Crime Branch (CCB) sleuths have unearthed an IPL ticket black-marketing racket in the city, which is suspected to have sold 181 match tickets so far, worth a whopping ₹17.52 lakh.

The case came to light after plainclothes officers deployed around the stadium arrested an individual working in a canteen inside the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium on Wednesday, when Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) took on the Lucknow Super Giants.

The arrested accused has been identified as Chandrashekar. He had bought tickets in the name of two companies and sold them to the public at inflated prices. Generally, a certain number of IPL tickets are set aside for corporate companies. A CCB source told *The Hindu* that Chandrashekar had procured 50 tickets each from Ticketsgenie, the ticketing partner, for the match between RCB and LSG in the names of the three companies.

In addition, he had bought 81 tickets for the RCB and Chennai Super Kings match held on March 28.

However, it is still unclear how Chandrashekar used the names of the companies. The CCB will now send notices to the companies concerned and seek information. The agency has also summoned representatives of Ticketsgenie.

# KERC approves APR true-up; consumers to see bill adjustments

It clarifies that this is not a tariff hike, but a 'true-up' exercise carried out after assessing the revenue deficit for 2024-25

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) on Friday approved an effective 56 paise per unit increase in electricity charges, with consumers to pay for a 'revenue gap' from power they had already consumed in 2024-25, as Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (BESCOM) moves to recover ₹2,068.38 crore.

True-up is a mechanism where electricity companies settle past under- or over-recovery by adjusting future bills. FILE PHOTO

**Not a hike**

The commission clarified that this is not a tariff hike, but a "true-up" exercise carried out after assessing the revenue deficit for 2024-25, and the amount will be added to monthly bills from May 2026. True-up is a mechanism where electricity companies settle past under- or over-recovery by adjusting future bills.

While the commission maintains it is not a hike, the impact on consumers will be similar to one, as they will have to pay more in their monthly bills starting next month, along with current electricity charges, as an additional 56 paise per unit will be collected for electricity already used in 2024-25, increasing the total bill during the recovery period. The order follows the Bescom's Annual Performance Review (APR) petition, filed in November 2025, which showed a revenue gap after comparing approved costs and actual earnings. The commission approved a net Aggregate Revenue Requirement (ARR) of ₹34,087.94 crore, while Bescom's revenue from power sales stood at ₹32,019.56 crore, resulting in a deficit of ₹2,068.38 crore.

To recover this, the commission has allowed the Bescom to levy a charge of 56 paise per unit on the total energy sales of 37,122.48 million units (MU) recorded in 2024-25. This recovery will be linked only to each consumer's actual electricity consumption during that year, ensuring that people are charged in proportion to what they used, the KERC said.

Instead of collecting the amount at once, the Bescom has been directed to recover it in equal monthly instalments between May 2026 and April 2027, under a separate line item called "FY25 True up Charges." Consumers will therefore see an additional component in their bills during this period.

**Revenue gaps**

The revenue gap, as per the Bescom, arose due to multiple factors during 2024-25. A major reason was the restructuring of domestic tariffs, where a single slab of ₹5.90 per unit replaced earlier higher rates for many consumers, leading to a loss of about ₹1.10 per unit from nearly 65% of users and contributing around ₹1,213 crore to the deficit. Industrial and commercial tariffs were also reduced by around 75 paise per unit, further lowering revenue.

Other factors included higher electricity consumption in agriculture due to poor rainfall, which increased subsidised power supply, and higher power purchase costs, especially due to greater reliance on costlier thermal power, the company said.

The commission maintained that true-up mechanism is a standard regulatory process under the Electricity Act, 2003, allowing power utilities to recover genuine gaps between projected and actual costs, while ensuring financial stability of the electricity supply system without revising past bills directly.

**CESC to pay extra**

Across Karnataka, the KERC true-up orders for 2024-25 show a mixed picture for consumers. Under Beescom and Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation (CESC) consumers will pay extra, as these utilities reported a revenue deficit.

On the other hand, consumers under Mangalore Electricity Supply Company (Mescom), Hubli Electricity Supply Company (Hescom), Gulbarga Electricity Supply Company (Gescom) and Hukkeri Rural Electricity Cooperative Society (HRECS) will see relief, as these companies had a revenue surplus, they collected more than required. The commission has directed these utilities to adjust the excess amount in future bills.

# H5N1 virus detected in Hesaraghatta poultry centre near Bengaluru

**Afshan Yasmeen**
BENGALURU

The detection of H5N1 avian influenza virus at a poultry training centre in Mathkuru village in Hesaraghatta near Bengaluru has prompted authorities to initiate containment measures as per protocol.

The infection was confirmed on April 14 based on a report from the National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases (NIHSAD), Bhopal. Following this, rapid response teams from the State, District and Primary Health Centre levels visited the site on April 16.

The area within a 3-km radius has been declared an infected zone, while a 10-km radius has been notified as a surveillance zone. As part of containment efforts, 7,444 birds were culled, and over 14,788 eggs and 2,250 kg of poultry feed were scientifically disposed of on April 15 under the supervision of the Animal Husbandry Department.

Ten staff involved in the culling operation have been placed under quarantine and are under medical observation with administration of Oseltamivir. The affected premises has been declared a prohibited area for one year.

Health Department officials said surveillance has been intensified in surrounding areas. Two villages with a population of 3,422 that fall within the 3-km infected zone and 17 villages with a population of 22,395 that fall within the 3-10 km surveillance zone are being monitored.

Health Department officials say surveillance has been intensified in surrounding areas. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Health workers and ASHA staff are conducting door-to-door visits and will continue fever surveillance for the next 10 days. Hospitals have been instructed to report any suspected cases immediately.

Private Hospitals have also been alerted to report ILI and SARI cases on the IHIP portal. Besides, adequate stocks of PPE kits, masks, Oseltamivir, viral transport media (VTM), and throat swab kits have been ensured at nearby primary health centres.

Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said no human cases of the infection had been reported so far and urged the public not to panic.

"There is no need for panic, but people must remain cautious," he said.

He advised the public to avoid contact with sick or dead birds and to immediately inform the Animal Husbandry or Health Department in case of any suspicion. He added that properly cooked poultry meat and eggs are safe for consumption.

Officials said the Health Department is prepared to handle any eventuality.

# Man arrested for posing as IAS officer had held meetings

**The Hindu Bureau**
SHIVAMOGGA

A person, who was arrested by the Bengaluru police on the charge of impersonating an IAS officer, allegedly held meetings with officials in Chikkamagaluru district.

Interestingly, he was felicitated at a public programme 'for clearing the toughest exam and getting into IAS'. Mithun C.R claimed to be an IAS officer holding a senior post at Arogya Soudha, the headquarters of the Health and Family Welfare Department, in Bengaluru.

**Timings**
**BENGALURU**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **SATURDAY, APR. 18** | | |
| RISE | 06:06 | SET 18:33 |
| RISE | 06:26 | SET 19:31 |
| **SUNDAY, APR. 19** | | |
| RISE | 06:05 | SET 18:33 |
| RISE | 07:18 | SET 20:36 |
| **MONDAY, APR. 20** | | |
| RISE | 06:04 | SET 18:33 |
| RISE | 08:16 | SET 21:43 |

| Bengaluru Weather | max | min |
|---|---|---|
| Tumakuru | 34 | 15 |
| Mysuru | 36 | 21 |
| Bengaluru | 36 | 24 |

**Bengaluru Today**
**35°C** The weather will be dry. Day will be warm with uneasy afternoon. Night will be pleasant.

**Bengaluru Tomorrow**
**36°C** Morning will be pleasant. Day will be very warm and uneasy. Night also will be pleasant. Dry weather to occur.

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THE HINDU
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# Koppal will change your idea of wildlife conservation; semi-arid landscape emerges as key refuge: Study

**Shilpa Elizabeth**
BENGALURU

In the semi-arid landscape of Koppal district in Karnataka, in the Deccan Peninsula, human-used terrain, often overlooked in conservation conversations, seems to be playing a vital role in supporting wildlife.

As per a recent study, open natural ecosystems (ONE) and livelihood practices, such as low-intensity rainfed farming and pastoralism, have been key to sustaining species, such as striped hyena, sloth bear, blackbuck, and Indian grey wolves, in this region.

As per a recent study, open natural ecosystems and livelihood practices, such as low-intensity rainfed farming and pastoralism, have been key to sustaining species, such as striped hyena, sloth bear, blackbuck, and Indian grey wolves, in the region SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

**Conservation potential**

According to the study, titled *Mislabeled and Misunderstood: Large Mammal Distribution Underscores Ecological Significance of Agro-Pastoral 'Wastelands' in India's Deccan Peninsula,* hyenas, sloth bears and blackbucks occupy 52%, 26%, and 63% of the landscape, respectively, despite the absence of intensively managed protected areas.

"Conservative estimates suggest that the Indian Grey Wolf (Canis lupus pallipes) was present in at least 76% of the landscape. ONEs favoured the occupancy of hyenas and sloth bears, while low-intensity agriculture supported blackbuck presence," states the paper authored by Iravatee Majgaonkar, Anish Paul, Sushma Sharma, and Indrajeet Ghorpade.

The result not only highlights the conservation potential of the landscape, but also challenges the labelling of these as 'wastelands'. The authors argue that the misclassification and mismanagement of such critical socio-ecological systems will not only jeopardise the survival of the threatened species, but also weaken the land-sharing potential of these regions.

**Beyond protected areas**

The agropastoral lands in Koppal are typically sparsely vegetated rocky outcrops with agricultural land in between. These lands may come under the Forest Department, be owned privately, or fall under the commons.

"In these treeless, sparsely vegetated landscapes with a mix of rain-fed agriculture, people have shared space with large carnivores or large herbivores for a very long time. There is no protected area in the district. The fact that such a system exists, and that it's a mix of private, commons, and forest pushes us to think beyond protected areas, for conservation," says Iravatee Majgaonkar, lead author of the paper and PhD scholar at ATREE, Bengaluru.

The region is characterised by extensive pastoralism, in which communities migrate seasonally with their livestock. In Koppal, these groups occupy open land for part of the year, and move on during the drier months. Meanwhile, the prevalence of rainfed agriculture means that fields are cultivated only during the monsoon. In the post-monsoon period, these areas offer a habitat to various species. The researchers point out that the nature of livelihoods in these regions thus allows for the sharing of space.

However, around 20% of the Koppal district is classified as 'wastelands', as per the Department of Land Resources. Such land is generally viewed as available for increasing forest cover or industrial expansion. Ms. Majgaonkar points out how renewable energy projects have come up in areas of the Deccan, including in Koppal.

**'Refugia'**

The researchers note that these lands support large mammal species, and provide a separation between people and wildlife to a certain extent. The study, which terms these lands 'refugia', argues that if they were to vanish, it could result in increased threats to the wildlife species and more instances of human-wildlife conflict.

Noting that the continued classification of such landscapes as 'wastelands' would pose a threat to the persistence of wildlife populations, Ms. Majgaonkar says, "A lot of these species cannot be contained in a protected area. For example, a pack of wolves requires more than 150 square kilometres. No protected area in India is ever going to be able to support a whole population of wolves. So, you must imagine their conservation in these mixed-use landscapes."

**Methodology**

The study leveraged the knowledge of locals for the research. While camera traps are commonly used to study the presence of animal population, given the presence of humans in the study region, the use of cameras raised privacy concerns.

**From Page One**

# No grades, marks will be awarded for SSLC 3rd language, State tells HC

By recording the submission of the AGA, the court directed the authorities to "conduct the evaluation of recently-conducted examination for SSLC as per the existing rules which was prevailing as on the date of the issuance of notification for conduct of examinations for the academic year 2025-26."

Citing earlier judgments of the court on changing the examination norms after commencement of examinations, the court said that the State authorities "shall not change the procedure of evaluation without there being existence of the rules/circular issued on the date of issuance of the notification to conduct examination."

"It is well settled principle in law that, there shall not be any change in the rules of the game in the midway and implies stability or a strict adherence to the guidelines or rules issued at the time of starting of the game," the court observed, while pointing out that any subsequent rules which was prevailing as on the date of the issuance of the notification for conducting the examination for the academic year 2025-26 shall prevail and any subsequent modification is contrary to Article 14 of the Constitution of India.

The SSLC examinations had commenced on March 18, and the exams for the third language papers were slated for March 30 as per the SSLC examination time table. Mr. Madhu Bangarappa had on March 27 announced in a press conference that Karnataka government, to reduce the academic pressure on SSLC students, has decided not to award marks for the third language, in the final results, instead, a grading system will be followed for the third language.

Following Minister's announcement, the Department of School Education and Literacy on April 10 had issued a draft notification on award of grades instead of marks and had given seven days to the public to send their objections and suggestions for the proposed grading system for the third language.

# Meet to save Western Ghats

**The Hindu Bureau**
HUBBALLI

Demanding a full stop to all projects that endanger the rich biodiversity of the Western Ghats and the creation of a sustainable development plan to conserve the rivers and valleys of the ghats, a 'Save Western Ghats Convention' will be held in Hubballi in the last week of May.

The Hubballi convention will be led by Swarnavalli seer Gangadharendra Saraswati Swami and that eminent personalities and officials have expressed their solidarity with the movement.

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THE HINDU GROUP

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Karnataka

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**Registration starts at 9:00 AM**

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### Davanagere
**April 25, 2026**
**Bapuji MBA Campus**
Bapuji Academy of Management and Research, Lake View Campus, S S Layout B Block, SS Layout, Davanagere

### Vijayapura
**May 2, 2026**
**BLDE Engineering Campus**
BLDEA's V.P. Dr. P.G. Halakatti, College of Engineering and Technology, Ashram Road, Adarsh Nagar, Vijayapura

### Tumakuru
**May 3, 2026**
**Birla Auditorium**
Birla Auditorium, Siddaganga Institute of Technology, BH Road, Tumakuru

### Bidar
**May 9, 2026**
**Shaheen Parvaaz Hall**
Shaheen Parvaaz Hall, Sapna Landmark, Opp. Vishal Functional Hall, Airport Road, Bidar

### Mangaluru
**May 9, 2026**
**Sri Sudeendra Auditorium**
Canara High School Main Campus, Kodiabail, Mangaluru

### Bengaluru
**May 9, 2026**
**SJRC Auditorium**
Sri Jagadguru Renukacharya College of Science, Arts and Commerce, Ananda Rao Circle, Loop Rd, Racecourse, Gandhi Nagar, Bengaluru

### Kalaburagi
**May 16, 2026**
**Poojya Doddappa Appa Saba Mantapa**
Poojya Doddappa Appa Mantapa, Sharnbasva University, Vidya Nagar, Kalaburagi

### Hubballi
**May 16, 2026**
**KLE Society's Bio Technology Auditorium**
KLE Society's Bio Technology Auditorium, BVB College of Engineering & Technology Campus, Vidyanagar, Hubballi

### Mysuru
**May 16, 2026**
**Sahukar Chennaiah Auditorium**
Vidyavardhaka College of Engineering, PB No. 206, Gokulam, 3rd Stage, Mysuru

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Bengaluru **97421 77743** | Mangaluru **94481 60126**
Mysuru **94488 71815** | North Karnataka **97314 00992**

M BG-BGE

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA NOTICE INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR RUNNING WET CANTEEN IN CHIEF ENGINEER AIR FORCE BANGALORE NO 2 DC AREA, MES ROAD YESHWANTHAPUR POST BANGALORE-22 PUBLIC NOTICE 1 Canteen in our office premises on monthly rent/ contract basis. The canteen should provide the Applications are invited from experienced vendors/firms individuals for running the Wet following items: Tea, Coffee, Milk, Idli/wada, Puri Masala, Plain Dosa, Pongal Chappati Uddina Vada, Dal Vada, Bhajee, Pakoda (One plate), Tomato Bath, Pulav, Lemon Rice Meals (Rice, Roti, Sambar, Sabji, Rasam, Papad, Pickle, Butter Milk) 2. The quotation should contain the following details - (a) Name and address of the applicant. (b) Experience in running canteen/food service. (c) Menu and rate list of items. (d) Any other supporting documents 3. The contractor quoting maximum rebate shall be awarded the canteen contract if everything is in order. However, this is not he only criteria for awarding the contract for fixing the award rest with this office. The right 4.The details of strength and food requirement ie. breakfast and lunch are as under Strength-150, Breakfast-10, Lunch 35. 5. You are requested to quote your monthly rebate payable to the Department minimum expected rebate is Rs. 1000/- PM. 5.It is requested to come to this office drop your quotation in quotation box at this HQ on or before 30 Apr 2026. Contact No - Adm Officer-9980715191 Office Tele-080-23370106.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
Ministry of Finance
Department of Finanical Services
Office of the Recovery Officer -1
**DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-1, BENGALURU**
4th Floor, Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road, Bangalore - 560 001

## NOTICE FOR SETTLING A SALE PROCLAMATION

( Under Rule 53 of the Second Schedule to the Income Tax Act, 1961, Read with the Recovery of Debts & Bankruptcy Act, 1993

**RC No. 150/2023 IN Case No. OA No.1113/2021**

**State Bank of India,** RASMEC Hosur Branch, at Sri Vaari Building, Plot No. 2, SIPCOT Industrial Estate, Phase -1 Zuzuvadi, Hosur, Tamil Nadu - 635126. **....Certificate Holder/ Applicant**

**V/s**

**(CD 1) Sri Shankar G.** S/o. Sri Gangappa,Residing at : No. 109, J-Cross, Srinivasapur Colony, BSK 6th Phase, 11th Block, Kengeri, Bengaluru - 560 060.

**(CD 2) Smt. Manjusha** W/o. Sri Shankar G ., Residing at :No. 109, J-Cross, Srinivasapur Colony, BSK 6th Phase, 11th Block, Kengeri, Bengaluru - 560 060. **....Certificate Debtor**

**To : Certificate Debtor**

Whereas, **Sri Shankar G. and Smt. Manjusha** (CD 1 and CD 2) was ordered by the Recovery Certificate No. **150/2023** of this Tribunal passed on the day of 31.10.2022 in **OA No. 1113/2021** issued by the Hon'ble Presiding Officer of this Tribunal, the debts amount of **Rs.48,69,957/-** (Rupees Forty Eight Lakhs Sixty Nine Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty Seven Only) along with interest and cost till realization is due from the certified debtors, namely, Sri Shankar G. and Smt. Manjusha and the said Certified Debtors have filed to pay the dues.

The outstanding liability in this matter as on 10.10.2025 is **Rs.66,46,155/-** (Rupees Sixty six Lakhs Forty Six Thousand One Hundred and Fifty Five Only) and whereas the said has amount along with cost, expenses and future interest are not paid by you, the undersigned has ordered the sale of under mentioned immovable property.

You are hereby informed that the day on after 15th day from the date of service of this notice has been fixed for drawing up the proclamation of sale and settling the terms thereof. You are requested to bring to the notice of the undersigned any encumbrances, charges, claims or liabilities attaching to the said properties or any portion thereof.

**SCHEDULE PROPERTY (DETAILS OF MORTGAGED PROPERTY**

(Details of Mortgaged Property) : Apartment bearing No. A-015 of 'A' Block, now bearing Bidaraguppe Grama Panchayat e-Khatha No. 150200100200320571, Flat No. 248/A-015 on the Ground Floor, of the building known as " Sigma Serenity'', measuring 1007 square feet of super built up area containing 2BHK together with one covered car parking space with 372 square feet of undivided share, right, title and interest in the property bearing New Sy. No. 223, (Old Sy. No. 173) of the converted land to an total extent of 2 Acres, vide Conversion Order No. AL.N(A)(A)SR/107/2010-11, dated 17.03.2010, situated at Indlabere Villae, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District and bounded on the East by : Sarjapura Main Road, West by : Sy. No. 173, North by : Sy. No. 180 & 181 and South by : Sai Layout.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on **20.11.2025**

**Sd/- (P. H. Hemanth Kumar IRS,) Recovery Officer- II**

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
Ministry of Finance
Department of Financial Services
**DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - I, BENGALURU**
BSNL Building, 4th Floor, Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road, Bangalore - 560 001

## WARRANT OF ATTACHMENT OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

(See Sec.25 and Sec 29 of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 read with Section 48 of the II Schedule to the Income Tax Act, 1961 )

**RC No. 444/2024 IN Case No. OA No.28/2022**

**State Bank of India,** RASMEC Hosur Branch, at Sri Vaari Building, Plot No. 2, SIPCOT Industrial Estate, Phase -1 Zuzuvadi, Hosur, Tamil Nadu - 635126. **....Certificate Holder/ Applicant**

**V/s**

**(CD 1) Sri Udaya Kumara K.** S/o. Sri Kamalanathan,Residing at : No. 10MIG, 8th Block, Koramangala, 6th Block, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560 095. **....Certificate Debtor**

Whereas, **Sri Udaya Kumara K** (CD 1) was ordered by the Recovery Certificate **No. 444/2024** of this Tribunal passed on the day of **11.10.2023** in **OA No. 28/2022** issued by the Hon'ble Presiding Officer of this Tribunal, the debts amount of **Rs.52,50,956.00** (Rupees Fifty Two Lakhs Fifty Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty Six Only) along with interest and cost till realization is due from the certified debtors, namely, Sri Udaya Kumara K. and the said Certified Debtors have filed to pay the dues.

The outstanding liability in this matter as on 10.10.2025 is **Rs.62,92,485.08** (Rupees Sixty Two Lakhs Ninety Two Thousand Four Hundred and Eighty Five and Paise Eight Only) and whereas the said has amount along with cost, expenses and future interest are not paid by you, the undersigned has ordered the sale of under mentioned immovable property.

Whereas since the above said dues have not been paid by the Certificate Debtors, this is to command you to attach the immovable property of the said Certificate Debtors as set forth in the schedule hereunto annexed, and unless the Certificate Debtor, shall pay to you the above said sum and costs of this attachment, to hold the same until further orders from the Recovery Officer.

You are further commanded to return the warrant on or before **23.01.2026** with an endorsement certifying the day on which and the manner in which it has been executed, or why it has not been executed.

**SCHEDULE PROPERTY : (DETAILS OF MORTGAGED PROPERTY**

Apartment bearing No. A-016 of 'A' Block, now bearing Bidaraguppe Grama Panchayat e-Khatha No. 150200100200320572, Flat No. 248/A-016 on the Ground Floor, of the building known as " Sigma Serenity'', measuring 1066 square feet of super built up area containing 3BHK together with one covered car parking space with 386 square feet of undivided share, right, title and interest in the property bearing New Sy. No. 223, (Old Sy. No. 173) of the converted land to an total extent of 2 Acres, vide Conversion Order No. AL.N(A)(A)SR/107/2010-11, dated 17.03.2010, situated at Indlabere Villae, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District and bounded on the East by : Flat No. A-014, West by : Flat No. A-018, North by : Open Space, and South by : Flat No.A- 015.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on **20.11.2025.**

**Sd/-** (P. H. Hemanth Kumar IRS)
Recovery Officer- II

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
Ministry of Finance
Department of Finanical Services
Office of the Recovery Officer -1
**DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-1, BENGALURU**
4th Floor, Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road, Bangalore - 560 001

## NOTICE FOR SETTLING A SALE PROCLAMATION

( Under Rule 53 of the Second Schedule to the Income Tax Act, 1961, Read with the Recovery of Debts & Bankruptcy Act, 1993

**RC No. 76/2024 IN Case No. OA No.832/2021**

**State Bank of India,** RASMEC Hosur Branch, at Sri Vaari Building, Plot No. 2, SIPCOT Industrial Estate, Phase -1 Zuzuvadi, Hosur, Tamil Nadu - 635126. **....Certificate Holder/ Applicant**

**V/s**

**(CD 1) Sri Keshava S.,** S/o. Sri Srinivas Tiptur Saheshachari, Residing at : No. 19, 2nd Floor, 6th Cross, Javaraiah Garden, 3rd Block, Thyagarajanagar, Bengaluru- 560 028.

**(CD 2) Sri Harish S.** S/o. Sri Srinivas Tiptur Saheshachari, Residing at : No. No. 19, 2nd Floor, 6th Cross, Javaraiah Garden, 3rd Block, Thyagarajanagar, Bengaluru- 560 028. **....Certificate Debtor**

**To : Certificate Debtor**

Whereas, **Sri Keshava S., and Sri Harish S.** (CD 1 and CD 2) was ordered by the Recovery Certificate **No. 76/2024** of this Tribunal passed on the day of **28.04.2023** in **OA No. 832/2021** issued by the Hon'ble Presiding Officer of this Tribunal, the debts amount of **Rs.51,59,365/-** (Rupees Fifty One Lakhs Fifty Nine Thousands Three Hundred and Sixty Five Only) along with interest and cost till realization is due from the certified debtors, namely, Sri Keshava S., and Sri Harish S. and the said Certified Debtors have filed to pay the dues.

The outstanding liability in this matter as on 10.10.2025 is **Rs.70,06,654.13** (Rupees Seventy Lakhs Six Thousand Six Hundred and Fifty Four and Paise Thirteen Only) and whereas the said has amount along with cost, expenses and future interest are not paid by you, the undersigned has ordered the sale of under mentioned immovable property.

You are hereby informed that the day on after 15th day from the date of service of this notice has been fixed for drawing up the proclamation of sale and settling the terms thereof. You are requested to bring to the notice of the undersigned any encumbrances, charges, claims or liabilities attaching to the said properties or any portion thereof.

**SCHEDULE PROPERTY (DETAILS OF MORTGAGED PROPERTY**

Apartment bearing No. A-019of 'A' Block, now bearing Bidaraguppe Grama Panchayat e-Khatha No. 150200100200320576 Flat No. 248/A-019 on the Ground Floor, of the building known as " Sigma Serenity'', measuring 1007 square feet of super built up area containing 2BHK together with one covered car parking space with 372 square feet of undivided share, right, title and interest in the property bearing New Sy. No. 223, (Old Sy. No. 173) of the converted land to an total extent of 2 Acres, vide Conversion Order No. AL.N(A)(A)SR/107/2010-11, dated 17.03.2010, situated at Indlabere Villae, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District and bounded on the East by : Sarjapura Main Road, West by : Sy. No. 173, North by : Sy. No. 180 & 181 and South by : Sai Layout.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on **20.12.2025.**

**Sd/- (P. H. Hemanth Kumar IRS,) Recovery Officer- II**

## O/o DEOPT MANAGER, PUNJAB STATE BUS STANDS MANAGEMENT COMPANY LIMITED (PUNBUS) - ROOPNAGAR

CIN: U74999CH19955GCD15974, Ph: 0172-2704606
(Website: https://punjabroadways.punjab.gov.in/en)

E-Tender for Selection of Bidder for Supply Of 696 **"OEM Built Fully Built Ordinary Passenger Buses"** under Form 22 to PUNBUS and PRTC

### NOTICE INVITING BID

Online E-Tender are hereby invited for Selection of Bidder for Supply Of **"OEM Built Fully Built Ordinary Passenger Buses"** having Bus Chassis **(Minimum WB 5600 MM to Maximum 6000 MM)** with Front Mounted Diesel Engine, BS-VI, OBD-II, 6 Cylinders, Type-II ,Two Doors (One Door Front Side Electro Pneumatically controlled after front tyres and One Door Rear Side afte rear tyres), NDX, 3X2 Seating, 53+D Seater (In compliance of AIS:052/ AIS:153, as amended from time to time) to PUNBUS and PRTC under Form 22. The detailed terms & conditions are given in RFP document and this can be obtained from https://eproc.punjab.gov.in with effect from 20-04-2026. The bidder will have to submit there technical and Financial bid online completed in all respcts as specified in RFP. The last date for bid submission shall be On or before 05-05-2026 by 14:00 hrs. and the technical bid will be opened on 05-05-2026 by 15:00 hrs. The undersigned reserved the right to reject any/ all tenders without assigning any reasons. All the bidders intending to participate in the tender process online are required to get registered on the centralized E-Procurement Portal i.e. **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in/** and the bidder must ensure that he/she complies with the online available important guidelines at the this portal for Digital Signature Certificate (DSC).

**2715/12/2026-27/10641** **Depot Manager, Roopnagar**

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are herby notified that my client **Smt. Zereen Taj** D/o Late. S.H. Kareem Saheb is the absolute owner of Agriculture Land bearing Survey No.44/1, measuring to an extent of 0.25 Guntas, of Hyne Land and 0.02 Guntas of Kharab Land, situated at Valagerehalli Village, Bangalore District. and same as been acquired from Sri. S.A.Kaleemunder Release Deed dated:09/07/2013. Whereas on 01/01/2026 to 15/04/2026, my client has lost original Release Deed Dated:09/07/2013, Doc. No.KEN-1-04387/2013-14, C.D.No.KEND536 and Partition Deed Dated:14/05/1952, Doc. No. 1701/1952-53 and my client has lost/ misplaced the above mentioned Original Documents pertaining to the above said property. And our client has lodged a police complaint before the Police station unit on 16/04/2026.

Any persons who holding/finding or in possession of said Sale deeds documents or tittle deeds should intimate to undersigned and if any person, Bank financial institution having any claim or right in respect of the said properties by way of Sale, Mortgage, Lease, Lien is hereby called upon to intimate to undersigned within **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice and for such claim of any with all supporting documents failing which the transaction in favour my client shall be completed without reference to such claim and if any claims, transactions or if any such person shall be treated as waived and not binding on my client.

**SHARATH K .M** ADVOCATE
Yashas Law Firm, # 19/3, Ground floor
Railway Parallel Road, Nehrunagar,
Seshadripuram, Bangaluru-560020
Mobile.9964651824

## PUBLIC NOTICE

It is brought to the notice of the General Public that my client **Mr. D V SEKHAR and Mrs. MADHAVI D** has irretrievably lost/misplaced the original document i.e., Registered Sale Deed dated: 16/09/1991, Registered as document No. 2419/1991-92 registered before the Office of the Sub-Registrar Bangalore South Taluk, in respect of Vacant **Site No.249/19,** Old Houselist Katha No.531-249/19, Later Houselist Katha No.268/249/19, in the layout known as **"LAUGHING WATERS"**, situated at **Ramagondanahalli Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore**

My client has made a Police compliant to Bangalore City Police through **online dated.17/04/2026, its Serial No.2160253,** for Missing of above said document If any persons get the information regarding said misplace original documents or found the documents please kindly inform the undersigned within **7 days** from this day.

**P. NAGAMUNI REDDY,**
**Advocate, SNN Associates,**
No.248, 2nd Floor, 10th Main,
1st Block, 100 Feet Road, HRBR Layout,
Kalyan Nagar, Bengaluru – 560043,
Land Mark – Near Horamavu Signal,
Above Canara Bank & HDFC ATM.
**M : 9945159840**

## KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD

Jalabhavana, 5th Floor, No.5, 1st Stage, 1st Phase,
BTM Layout, Bannerughatta Main Road, Bengaluru-560029

### TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

**No: KWB/TEC/CE(B)/Channapatna 2nd Stage UGD /41/2026-27, Dated: 16.04.2026**

**Name of the Work:** Tender for "Providing 2nd Stage Under Ground Drainage System to Channapatna City Including Operation and Maintenance for a period of 5 years (Including 1 year DLP) Through Design, Build, Operation and Transfer (DBOT) mode with JV"

**Indent No.: KUWSDB/2026-27/WS/Work_INDENT502**

For further details may be obtained through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal website:
**https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

**Sd/-**
**Chief Engineer (B),**
**KUWS & D Board, Bengaluru**

DIPR/CP/242/CCL/2026-27

## BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

### INVITATION FOR TENDERS (Through KPP Portal Only)

BWSSB invites tenders in Two Stage Tender System from eligible Contractors for the following Works.

| Sl. No. | Name of the Works | Amount Put to Tender / EMD Amount |
|---|---|---|
| **Office of the Engineer-in-Chief, 2nd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru-560009.** | | |
| **IFT No.: BWSSB/EIC/ACE(UFW)/TA(UFW)/254/2026-27** | | **Date: 17-04-2026** |
| 1 | Repair, Replacement of EMF Flowmeters at North East Zone and Various Locations coming under AEE (UFW) Sub Division. **(2nd Call)** | **Rs. 395.32 Lakhs** / **Rs. 5.93 Lakhs** |
| **IFT No.: BWSSB/EIC/ACE(UFW)/TA(UFW)/256/2026-27** | | **Date: 17-04-2026** |
| 2 | Repair, Replacement of EMF Flowmeters at North West Zone and Various Locations coming under AEE (UFW) Sub Division. **(2nd Call)** | **Rs. 396.32 Lakhs** / **Rs. 5.95 Lakhs** |

For the above works, Last Date for Receipt of Tenders: **25-04-2026 upto 16.00 Hours.**
Tenders will be Opened on: **27-04-2026 at 11.30 Hours.**

**Sd/- Engineer-in-Chief**

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-Procurement Process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/Adverto/240/2026-27

## यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया / Union Bank of India

भारत सरकार का उपक्रम / A Government of India Undertaking

**Regional Office: 2254, "Kousalya", 3rd Floor, South Wing, Vinoba Road, Mysore - 570 005**

### POSSESSION NOTICE

**(See Rule 8(1)Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)**

Whereas, the Undersigned being the authorised officer of **Union Bank Of India, Regional Office, Mysuru** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Second) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Sec 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (Act No. 54 of 2002) to repay the amount together with the future interest. till payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/s, Guarantor/s and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sec 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on below mentioned date.

The Borrower/s and Guarantor/s in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of the Union Bank of India, for an amount mentioned in the below column + interest and costs thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to the borrower to redeem the secured assets.

**Union Bank Of India, Bidadi Branch, Mysore-bangalore Road, Near Bus Stand, Bidadi, Bengaluru – 562109**
**Contact No: 8281034060, Mail Id:ubin0909092@unionbankofindia.bank.in**

| Sl. No. | Name & Address of the Borrowers/Co-Borrowers/ Gurantors/Mortgager | Demand Notice Date & Amount | Total Dues | Description of the Immovable Properties | Date of Possession Taken |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | 1. **Mr. Chidananda C,** S/o Cheluvaiah, # 42, Vrushabhavathipura Village, Ittamadu Post, Near Railway Station, Bidadi - 562109<br>2. **Mrs. Mangalagowramma,** W/o Cheluvaiah # 42, Vrushabhavathipura Village, Ittamadu Post, Near Railway Station, Bidadi – 562109 And<br>3. **Mrs. Reshma** W/o Late Mr. Lokesh C, # 42, Vrushabhavathipura Village, Ittamadu Post, Near Railway Station, Bidadi - 562109, | **24-10-2025 & Rs. 30,04,714-00 as on 24-10-2025** | **Rs. 31,16,304-00 as on 31-03-2026 (Plus Interest & Other Charges thereon)** | All The Part And Parcel Of Residential House In The Name Of **Chidananda C,** Bearing Plot No. 152900401300100626, Old Kanesumari No. 23/346, Katha No-21/23/346, Vrushabhavathipura Village, Ittamadu Post, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara. **Measuring East - West: 35 Feet, North - South : 55 Feet, Total: 1925 Square feet. Bounded By East:** House Of Mahadevaiah, **West :** Road, **North :** Road, **South :** Private Propety. | 15-04-2026 |

**Date : 15-04-2026**
**Place : Mysuru**

**Sd/- Authorized Officer**
**Union Bank of India**

## SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

## MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

(SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)

### NOTIFICATION

**Bengaluru, 02nd April 2026**

**S.O. 1720(E).**--In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of Section 20 A of the Railway Act 1989 (24 of 1989) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government (Ministry of Railway, South Western Railway, Construction Organisation, Bengaluru Cantonment) after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which has been given in the schedule annexed hereto, is required for the execution of the Special Railway Project, viz., "Construction of ROB in lieu of LC No. 131 at Arsikere Habbanaghatta at Chainage 162/700-800 (Habbanaghatta Kaval Village), in the state of KARNATAKA, hereby declares its intention to require such land.

Any person interested in the said land may, within a period Thirty days from the date of publication of this notification in the official Gazette, raise objection to the acquisition and use of nach land for the aforesaid purpose date of publication of this under sub-section (1) of Section 20D of the said Act:

Every such objection shall be made to the Competent Authority viz., Assistant Commissioner, Hassan and "Arbitrator" viz, 'Regional Commissioner, Bengaluru" for Construction of ROB in lieu of LC No. 131 at Arsikere Habbanaghatta at Chainage 162/700-800 (Habbanaghatta Kaval village) in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the competent authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if if any, as the competent authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections;

Any order made by the competent authority under sub-section (2) of Section 20D of the said Act shall be final;

The land plans and other details of the land covered under this notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid Office of the Competent Authority viz., Assistant Commissioner, Hassan.

### SCHEDULE

**Brief description of the land to be acquired, with or without structure, falling with in the proposed Special Railway Project of Construction of ROB in lieu of LC No. 131 at Arsikere-Habbanaghatta at Chainage 162/700-800 (Habbanaghatta Kaval Village) in the state of Karnataka.**

**District: Hassan** **Taluk: Arsikere**
**Hobli: Kasaba** **Village: Habbanaghatta Kaval**

| Sl. No. | Sy. No. | Land Owner | Total Extent as per (RTC) (A-G) | Classi-fication of land | Extent required for acquisition | Extent in Sq Mtr | Extent in Hec | Trees & Plants details | Building & others |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 1 | 252 | Shri Kasturba Trust Paravagi Pratinidhi | 85-27 | Bhagayatu | 0-35 | 3540.98 | 0.354 | 23 Coconut (Big)<br>15 Coconut (small)<br>8 Jungle Wood | - |

**ABSTRACT**

| Sl. No. | Name of the Village | Extent of acquisition (in Area) | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | A-G | Area in Sq Mtrs | Area in Ha |
| 1 | Habbanaghatta Kaval | 0-35 | 3540.98 | 0.354 |
| **Total** | | **0-35** | **3540.98** | **0.354** |

**[F. No. W.271/CN/BNC/2025-26/Land SRP/1727]**

**(Pardeep Puri)**
Chief Engineer-III/Construction/
South Western Railway, Bengaluru Cantonment

PUB/32/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2026-27

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## BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED

(Wholly owned by Government of Karnataka undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)

### EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

BESCOM is inviting Expression of Interest (EOI) from Banks/ Financial Institutions for sanctioning Rs.500.00 Crores Long term Working Capital loans for clearing dues of Power purchase (LPS) [for reimbursement of LPS dues paid out of own funds].

**1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:**

BESCOM is responsible for the distribution of Electricity within the State of Karnataka currently serves around One Crore Consumers throughout Eight Districts (Bangalore Urban, Bangalore Rural, Chikkaballapura, Kolar, Davanagere, Tumkur, Chitradurga and Ramanagara). BESCOM has 9 (Nine) circles, 32 (Thirty-Two) divisions and 147 (One Hundred and Forty-Seven) sub-divisions and 534 section offices.

At present BESCOM is clearing dues under Late Payment Surcharge -2022 scheme to the extent of Rs.7526.00 Crores. Out of Rs.7526.00 Crores, BESCOM has already cleared Rs.7070.73 Crores as on 05.04.2026 and the rest of the amount shall be paid as and when due.

At present BESCOM is clearing LPS dues from its own funds and raises the loan to reimburse the same. As on 31.03.2026, BESCOM has raised Rs.5800.00 Crores loan for LPS-2022 dues.

**2. Conditions to participate in the EOI:**

The following are the terms and conditions to be followed by Banks and Financial institutions for participation in bidding process:

| Sl. No. | Particulars | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Facility | Long Term Working Capital Loan – Late Payment Surcharge (LPS) [Reimbursement of Rs.500.00 Crores paid by BESCOM] |
| 2 | Loan amount | Rs.500.00 Crores |
| 3 | Rate of interest | Competitive interest rate preferable @1 year MCLR |
| 4 | Tenure of the loan | 12 years including 2 years moratorium. |
| 5 | Repayment of loan | 120 equal monthly installments |
| 6 | Processing Fees/ Any other charges | Except interest, BESCOM does not pay any other charges. |
| 7 | Guarantee | Security in the form of Receivables/ Fixed assets for the loan. |

The Interested bidder shall submit their proposals within **27.04.2026, 5:00 PM** in a sealed cover to the office of the Director (Finance), 2nd Floor, Belaku Bhavana, Corporate office, BESCOM, K.R Circle, Bangalore.

BESCOM reserves the right to reject any or all of the bids without assigning any reasons thereof. BESCOM may terminate the EOI process at any time without assigning any reasons and upon such termination BESCOM shall not be responsible for any direct loss and damage arising out of such a termination.

A meeting of prospective bidders is convened on **22.04.2026, 11:30 AM** at this office of the Director (Finance), 2nd Floor, Belaku Bhavana, Corporate office, BESCOM, K.R Circle, Bangalore for any pre-participation clarification.

**For further information, contact:**

- General Manager, Finance and Resources -Mobile No- 9449844649
- Deputy General Manager, CMS-Mobile No- 9449839256

**Sd/-**
**General Manager (F&R)**
**BESCOM**

**State Investment Promotion Board Cell**

Govt. of Bihar

### DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES

**Tender Notice No:-S1PB/1025**

Online e-tender are invited by the Director Of Industries, Department of Industries, Govt. of Bihar, Patna for Selection of a System Integrator for Design, Development, implementation and maintenance of unified single window system web portal and mobile application of Invest Bihar Portal.

| S.N | Tender Schedule/Program | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Name of the customer and address from whose website the RFP documents can be obtained | Director Industries, Department of Industries,2nd floor,Vikas Bhawan, Patna, Bihar-800001, Telephone No: 0612-2235812 Email Id: dir.ind-bih@nic.in |
| 2 | Publishing of RFP | 21/04/2026 |
| 3 | Last date for submission of queries for clarifications | 24/04/2026 at 12.00 P.M |
| 4 | Date of pre-bid conference (virtual) | 27/04/2026 at 3.00 P.M |
| 5 | Release of response to clarifications | 30/04/2026 |
| 6 | Bid validity period | 180 days from the last date (deadline) for submission of proposals. |
| | Last date (deadline) for submission of bids | 12/05/2026 at 6.00 P.M |
| 6 | Opening of Technical Bids | 14/05/2026 at 03:00 PM, Department of Industries, 2nd floor,Vikas Bhawan, Patna, Bihar-800001 |
| 7 | Technical Presentation by the Bidders | 17/05/2026 |
| | Place, Time and Date of opening of Financial proposals received in response to the RFP notice | 20/05/2026 |
| 9 | Award of Contract | 25/05/2026 |
| | Tender Fees | INR 10,000/- Ten Thousand Only |
| 10 | Tender Processing fee | As Per Eproc2 |
| 11 | EMD | INR 20,00,000/- Twenty Lakh Only |

Note:

1. Director Industries, Department of Industries, Patna, Bihar reserves the right to reject or cancel the tender or any part thereof without assigning any reasons.
2. The tender document can be obtained from the website of Department of Industries, Government of Bihar
3. For any queries regarding tender please contact: 0612-2235812 or 18003456214 and email: dir.ind-bih@nic.in or sipb.care@bihar.gov.in

Toll Free Number: 1800 572 6571, Email Id: eproc2support@bihar.gov.in
During 08:00 AM to 07:00 PM (All days in week except state holidays)
**eProc 2.0 Help Desk Address:**
RJ Complex, 2nd Floor, Opposite Vidyapeeth Institute, Khajpura, Ashiana Road, P.S. - Shastri Nagar, Patna 800 014, Bihar

**Issuing Officer**
**Department of Industries**

**PR. No. 001402 (Industry) 2026-27**

For further details please visit : **www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar**

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thehindu.com/features/homes-and-gardens

# *Threading the future of rattan*

## Bengaluru artist Saumya Kashyap reimagines cane as embroidered art for modern homes

Anisha Menezes

Rattan is all the rage in the home decor space. From partitions to wardrobe shutters and seating, it provides a subtle statement that is both organic and elegant. Sourced from over 600 species of palms native to tropical regions of Asia, Africa and Australasia, rattan's earliest use was in basket weaving.

In India, embroidery on rattan furniture was pioneered with 'Veyari', a thread-on-cane art form, crafted by Bengaluru-based artist Saumya Kashyap. Kashyap displays her artwork at her store, Vystrit, in Indiranagar, Bengaluru. Kashyap says, "Veyari needed structure – a way to protect the integrity of the material and the meaning behind the work." She trained her team, which comprises a dozen female domestic workers from the neighbourhood, who were looking to supplement their income.

Her husband and partner at Vystrit, Prashant, says, "In 2022, we had four panels of rattan on our walls at home, which were not really speaking to us. Saumya tried ways to spruce them up by painting, and then she came up with Veyari."

To create this unique thread on cane art, first rattan is stretched on teak frames, which are then used to make larger pieces of furniture. Hunsur and Nilambur teak are sourced with VOC 3 (low volatile organic compounds emanating little odour). "Eighty to hundred-year-old felled trees are available during state forest department auctions. Teak has beautiful grains and essential oils, and we don't do any termite proofing. Instead, we use solar dryers for three to six months and test for moisture levels. During the summer, we run coolers to increase moisture, so that the joints are firm and the wood cures well," says Prashant.

Products available at Veyari. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Water-based varnish and polishes are used to seal and shine the wood. A mix of Japanese joinery and Indian woodworking techniques is used to create cabinets, sofas, chairs and tables.

"We stretch the wet rattan on a frame to make it pliable. Then, it is stretched fully and mounted on the final frame, with artisans working on both sides of it, to pass the threads through, keeping it taut, but not too tight," says Kashyap. The designs range from mandalas to birds, scenery and sometimes even silhouettes of couples. "We do a lot of wardrobe shutters across India. The client sends the frame, and we mount the rattan and embellish it."

While Bengaluru remains their largest market, orders for Veyari come in from Mumbai, Pune, Hyderabad and Kochi.

Housewarming gifts such as key holders, frames of Ganesha, magazine holders and name plates are bestsellers.

*The freelance writer is based in Chennai.*

THE HINDU
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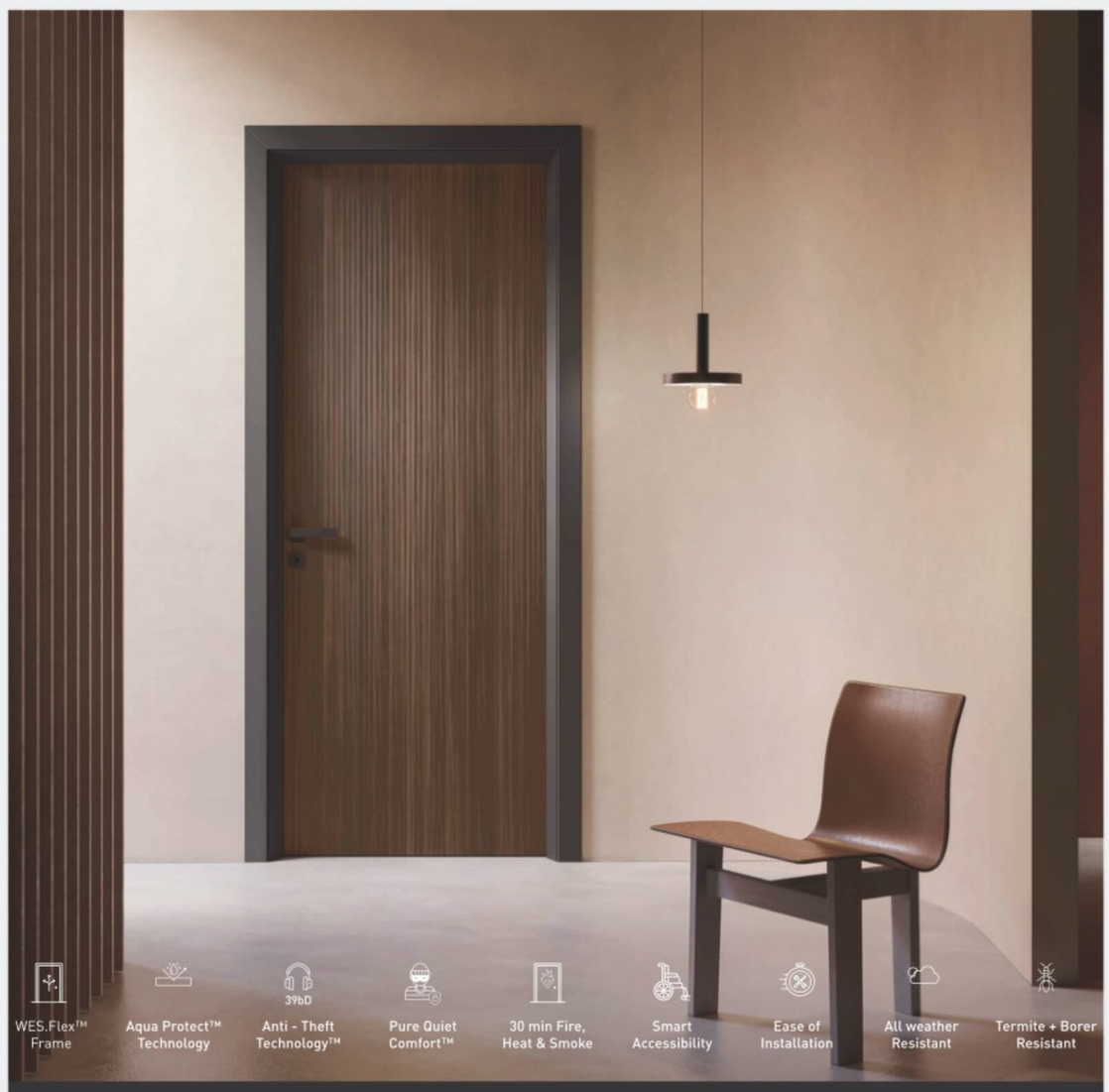

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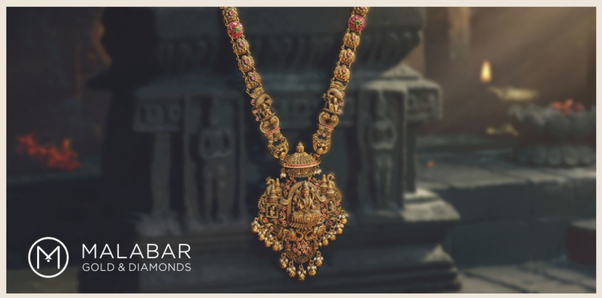

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## Deservedly dead

### A ramrod approach to delimitation was bound to fail

In what was a foregone conclusion, the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026 failed to secure the two-thirds majority required for a constitutional amendment. While 298 members voted in its favour and 230 against, the Bill needed 352 votes – two-thirds of the 528 present and voting – to pass. The government subsequently shelved the companion Delimitation Bill and the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, saying they could not be viewed in isolation. During his reply to the debate, Home Minister Amit Shah gave a verbal guarantee that southern States would see their presence in an 816-member Lok Sabha increase in the same proportion as their current share, even offering to adjourn the House for an hour to redraft the Bill with a 50% uniform increase as an official amendment. The Opposition dismissed this. The obvious question: if proportional increase was always the intent, why was it not in the Bill? The language as tabled clearly mandated delimitation on the basis of the latest Census – currently 2011 – which would have reduced the share of southern, eastern, and northeastern States due to their lower population growth relative to the Hindi heartland States. Why the haste to push through a controversial constitutional amendment when the 2026-27 Census is still under way? Also, there was no reason to link women's reservation, on which there is all-party consensus, to delimitation in this manner. The bizarre smoke-and-mirrors approach, no doubt intended to confuse and divide the Opposition, made a mockery of the parliamentary process.

It is to the credit of the INDIA bloc that it voted as one against this methodical madness; overlooking their differences, parties such as the Congress, the Samajwadi Party, the Trinamool Congress, the Left and the DMK ensured floor coordination. Conversely, one must note the naivety of the Telugu Desam Party and the AIADMK, which spoke in favour of the Bill, on the strength of the Home Minister's verbal assurances despite the conflicting language in the text, when Andhra Pradesh stood to lose five seats and Tamil Nadu 11 under the Bill's own terms. This defeat should chasten the government. It would now have to implement women's reservation through the constitutionally mandated route: complete the 2026-27 Census, and refer delimitation and Lok Sabha expansion to a parliamentary committee for genuine consensus. The two-thirds threshold exists precisely to prevent far-reaching structural changes from being rammed through without broad agreement and this safeguard held today.

## Temporary truce

### The U.S.-Israel ceasefire with Iran must hold across all fronts

The 10-day ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon, announced by U.S. President Donald Trump on Thursday, could strengthen the fragile two-week truce between the U.S. and Iran and improve the prospects for a broader diplomatic settlement. The war in Lebanon, launched on March 2, on the third day of the U.S.-Israel war on Iran, has been a key sticking point in U.S.-Iran talks. When Mr. Trump announced the ceasefire with Tehran on April 8, both Iran and Pakistan, which mediated the truce, said the agreement also covered Lebanon. A ceasefire on all fronts was one of the 10 points Iran submitted to the U.S. as a framework for ending the war. But Israel, apparently dissatisfied with the U.S.-Iran deal, rejected a ceasefire with Lebanon and stepped up attacks, killing at least 200 people within 24 hours of the U.S.-Iran truce taking effect. Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, who travelled to Islamabad to hold direct talks with a U.S. delegation headed by Vice President J.D. Vance, insisted that a ceasefire in Lebanon was a precondition for advancing diplomacy. The Islamabad talks failed to produce a breakthrough, but both sides remained engaged, communicating through Pakistan.

Yet, despite the truce, a fundamental problem remains. The war in Lebanon is not between Israel and the Lebanese army, but between Israel and Hezbollah. Hezbollah has not been part of the talks. Some Hezbollah leaders have said the party would halt attacking Israel if Israeli strikes stop. The Shia militant group has been weakened but is far from defeated. Israel has also said it would not withdraw troops from the territory it has seized in southern Lebanon, while Hezbollah insists on a return to pre-March 2 positions. Mr. Netanyahu says there is a 'historic opportunity' for a peace deal with Lebanon, but any such agreement is unlikely to include Hezbollah, which remains stronger than the Lebanese army and retains an extensive political and social network. While the ceasefire is now in effect, peace remains elusive. The wars on Iran and Lebanon should serve as a reminder to Israel of its own limitations. Mr. Netanyahu sought regime change in Iran and the disarmament of Hezbollah in Lebanon. As the U.S.-Israeli push for regime change in Iran faltered, prompting Mr. Trump to seek a negotiated exit from the Iran mess, Israel's war with Hezbollah has also run into a wall. The ceasefire reflects this ground reality. If Mr. Trump wants a durable negotiated settlement with Iran based on a give-and-take formula, he must ensure that the ceasefire is sustained across all fronts.

# Why women's reservation cannot wait any longer

**Shamika Ravi**
Member, EAC-PM

India stands at a curious democratic crossroads. It is one of the world's most vibrant democracies, marked by high voter participation and an increasingly engaged female electorate. Yet within its legislative institutions, women remain conspicuously underrepresented. This contradiction – between participation and representation – makes a compelling case for the immediate implementation of the Women's Reservation Bill.

This gap has been repeatedly highlighted. While Indian women have emerged as a decisive electoral force, their presence in law-making bodies remains disproportionately low. Nowhere is this imbalance more evident than in the stark difference between State and national representation.

Women constitute, on average, only about 9% of legislators in State Assemblies, while their representation in Parliament hovers around 14%-15%. This is far from reflecting women's share in the total population of the country, which is nearly 50%.

This disparity is not just numerical – it is structural. Over the past two decades, women in India have transformed from passive voters into active political participants. In several States, female voter turnout now equals or even surpasses that of men. This is a remarkable democratic achievement. It signals agency, awareness, and a growing sense of political ownership among women. However, this surge in participation has not translated into equivalent gains in representation.

**Structural faults**

The reasons are deeply embedded in the functioning of India's political system. Political parties act as gatekeepers, and continue to nominate far fewer women candidates than men. Electoral politics is resource-intensive, requiring financial backing, networks, and social capital – areas where women often face systemic disadvantages. Cultural norms and safety concerns further discourage women from entering the political arena. The result is a cycle of exclusion that reproduces itself with each election. This is precisely why the Women's Reservation Bill is not just desirable but necessary. By mandating a fixed share of seats for women in legislatures, it directly addresses the structural barriers that prevent fair representation. Critics often argue that such quotas compromise merit or lead to tokenism. But this argument assumes that the current system is meritocratic, which it clearly is not. Access to political power in India is shaped as much by privilege and networks as by competence.

> High turnout among women voters is a sign of democratic vitality, but true empowerment requires a seat at the decision-making table

Evidence from India's own experience with reservation at the local level offers a powerful counterpoint. In the Panchayati Raj institutions, where seats have been reserved for women, the results have been transformative. Women leaders have not only participated effectively but have also shifted policy priorities toward issues such as health, education, water, and sanitation. These are not marginal concerns; they are central to human development and economic progress.

Moreover, representation has a ripple effect. When women occupy positions of authority, they challenge entrenched social norms. Young girls grow up seeing leadership as attainable. Families and communities begin to accept women's public roles more readily, and over time, this creates a pipeline of future leaders. Reservation, therefore, is not a permanent solution but a catalytic intervention; one that helps correct historical imbalances and sets the stage for a more equitable system.

**On State legislatures and Parliament**

The comparison between State Assemblies and Parliament further underscores the urgency of the reform.

If representation is as low as 9% at the State level, it indicates that the problem is even more severe at the grassroots of legislative power. State governments play a critical role in shaping policies around healthcare, education, law and order, and local development, which directly affect citizens' daily lives. The near absence of women in these decision-making bodies means that half the population has a limited voice in shaping them.

At the national level, the slightly higher figure of 14%-15% in Parliament is often cited as progress. But this too falls short of global benchmarks and democratic ideals. A representative democracy must reflect the diversity of its people, not just in theory but in practice. The underrepresentation of women weakens the legitimacy and inclusiveness of India's democratic institutions.

Timing is another crucial factor. India is undergoing rapid social and economic transformation. More women are entering higher education, joining the workforce, and asserting their rights. Their aspirations are evolving faster than the institutions meant to represent them. Delaying the implementation of the Women's Reservation Bill risks widening this gap, and will lead to frustration and disengagement.

Some argue that political parties should voluntarily field more women candidates instead of relying on legislative mandates. While this is a desirable goal, past experience suggests that voluntary measures have not been effective. Despite repeated promises, the proportion of women candidates has remained low. Structural problems require structural solutions, and reservation is one such solution.

**Deepening democracy**

At its core, the argument for the Women's Reservation Bill is about deepening democracy. High turnout among women voters is a sign of democratic vitality, but true empowerment requires a seat at the decision-making table. Moving from participation to representation is the next logical step in India's democratic evolution.

There is also a strong developmental argument. Research across countries shows that gender-inclusive governance leads to better outcomes – more equitable policies, improved social indicators, and sustainable growth. In a country as diverse and complex as India, excluding half the population from political leadership is not just unjust, it is inefficient.

India has already shown that institutional reform can drive social change. The success of reservation in local governance demonstrates that change is possible when there is political will. Extending this principle to State Assemblies and Parliament is not a radical step, it is a necessary progression. Ultimately, the question is not whether India is ready for the Women's Reservation Bill, it is whether its democracy can afford to wait any longer for women's reservation; the gap between participation and representation is too large to ignore.

India's democratic journey has been remarkable, but it remains incomplete.

Bridging this gap requires bold action. Implementing the Women's Reservation Bill immediately is not just about fairness – it is about building a more representative, responsive, and resilient democracy.

# Pope Leo and Trump, the battle for America's soul

**Anil Raman**
Research Fellow, Takshashila Institution and a retired brigadier

On April 12, U.S. President Donald Trump declared on his social media platform, Truth Social, that he does not "want a Pope who criticises the President."

He called Pope Leo XIV "weak on crime, terrible for foreign policy," claimed credit for his election, and said he preferred the Pope's brother Louis, a self-described "all MAGA [Make America Great Again]" Floridian.

Within the hour, Mr. Trump posted an AI-generated image of himself as a Christ-like figure healing the sick, framed by American flags, signalling his theological intent.

The trigger for the image was a prayer vigil that Pope Leo held at the St. Peter's Basilica the previous evening, denouncing the "delusion of omnipotence" driving the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran, and calling Mr. Trump's threat to destroy an entire civilisation as "truly unacceptable."

While the Pope did not name the United States or Mr. Trump, he did not need to as the confrontation had been building since January. Multiple reports state that Pentagon Undersecretary Elbridge Colby had summoned the Vatican's ambassador, Cardinal Christophe Pierre, for a closed-door meeting. Vatican officials described it as a "bitter lecture," where it was asserted that the United States had the power to do as it wished and that the Church must comply. One official invoked the Avignon papacy, when the French monarchy used force to subjugate the church at that time.

The Pentagon has, however, denied this account.

Additionally, the Vatican has declined President Trump's invitation to the Pope to celebrate the U.S's 250th anniversary of independence on July 4. Instead, on the same date, the Vatican is sending its first American Pope to Lampedusa to stand with migrants.

> Mr. Trump's charge that Pope Leo caters to the radical left is incoherent on its face

**Religious invocation to justify war**

The U.S. administration's conduct on Iran has sharpened moral stakes. U.S. Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth has used scriptural references, praying publicly for "overwhelming violence" against the enemy. When Mr. Trump was asked if he thought God supported the war, he replied, "I do, because God is good." Pope Leo's Palm Sunday homily answered directly, "Jesus is the King of Peace, who rejects war, whom no one can use to justify war. He does not listen to the prayers of those who wage war." A President claims divine sanction; a Pope refutes it.

What makes the administration's fury instructive is that it exposes a contradiction that the MAGA movement cannot resolve. White evangelical Christianity provided the moral scaffolding for Mr. Trump's return to power through what theologians' call "vessel theology": Mr. Trump is a flawed vessel, anointed by God to save America from its enemies. His moral record is beside the point. God chose David, who was an adulterer, and Cyrus, who was a pagan; he can choose Donald Trump too. The deal was transactional from the start: judges in exchange for character, outcomes in exchange for consistency, and power in exchange for moral witness.

Pope Leo's response has been moralistic and institutional. He has reshaped the U.S. catholic hierarchy, with Cardinals Blase Cupich of Chicago and Robert McElroy of Washington publicly reinforcing his criticism of the Iran war. Mr. Cupich called it "sickening" to treat real war "like a video game"; and Mr. McElroy questioned the administration's use of the 'just war' doctrine to justify the attack on Iran. The president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' called Mr. Trump's attack on the Pope "disheartening," reminding him that Pope Leo speaks "from the truth of the Gospel." The institutional Church held the line.

Mr. Trump's charge that Pope Leo caters to the radical left is incoherent on its face. Pope Leo declined to criticise Mr. Trump's deployment of National Guardsmen to Chicago and told the U.S. ambassador that he was "not an American Pope" but "a Pope from America for the world." His objections on Venezuela, Iran, and migrants derive from Catholic social teaching that predates the U.S. culture wars by centuries. That Mr. Trump reads universal moral principles as partisan opposition shows how completely he has fused faith with political loyalty.

**The political and the theological**

For countries outside the United States, such as India, the confrontation carries implications beyond theology. When the world's most powerful democracy allows its dominant faith tradition to be conscripted into an imperial project of self-congratulation, the consequences spread outward. Postcolonial societies are familiar with the pattern of power applied outward and moral language reserved for internal consumption. What is new is the absence of even a performance of restraint.

The Pope's admonishments go beyond politics. He is insisting on something more fundamental: that faith cannot survive without moral limits. A Christianity that excuses cruelty, rewards falsehood, and baptises domination ceases to be a moral force and becomes an instrument of power. Mr. Trump's rage at a Pope who refuses to validate that arrangement is, ultimately, the most honest thing he has said about it. He knows what Pope Leo is doing, and he knows that it is working.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Unnecessary rush**

Parliament unanimously passed the Women's Reservation Act in 2023. Why, then, is the government now bundling it with a rushed delimitation exercise — proposing a 50% seat expansion on the back of 2011 data, even as a fresh Census process has just started, and when the Model Code of Conduct is in place in States where the BJP itself is a contestant? The geometry is transparent: if the Bill fails, the Opposition becomes anti-women; if it passes, the BJP claims credit for a law it already enacted. Citizens deserve delimitation as democratic reform, not electoral theatre.

**Gopalaswamy J.**
Chennai

**Hope for peace**

The Israel-Lebanon ceasefire brings a short pause in border clashes after months of escalation. The aim is to reduce civilian harm and open space for dialogue. Yet enforcement rules remain unclear, weakening trust from the start. Hezbollah's participation is conditional, which may create gaps in ground compliance. Israel is continuing with a 10km security zone, limiting real de-escalation. These gaps affect how monitoring and accountability work in practice. Clear third-party monitoring and phased withdrawals can help move towards stability and durable peace.

**S.Balasubramaniyan**
Tamil Nadu

**Timely action needed**

The article on the sluggishness in the legal system (Editorial page, April 17) is an important and timely reminder to all stakeholders to urgently attend to improving the pace in the delivery of justice. The huge number of pending civil cases give litigants no hope for any relief in their life time. Such sluggishness in the system enables hardened criminals to get bail many times, and has made the common person lose faith in the legal system. The infrastructure needed for the judiciary to speed up the disposal of cases can be done only when the Central and State law departments really step up. The budgetary and administrative actions in increasing the number of courts and judicial officials has to come on a war footing. The status quo needs to be shaken up to bring in some faith in the law and the judiciary.

**B. Sundar Raman**
Coimbatore

**A look at other aspects**

The delimitation debate has stayed mostly on seat counts and proportional State share. Two related concerns have received less attention. First, even without sharp changes in the proportional share, a gradual increase in seats for high-population States can shift how coalitions form and how bloc voting plays out at the Centre. Second, does a larger Parliament actually legislate better? Quality of debate, time for deliberation, and how efficiently that time is used are what drive legislative outcomes. The record on the last point is uneven. Expansion alone is not an answer. Stronger institutional processes and better use of technology may do more for parliamentary effectiveness than additional seats. The delimitation question is not only about arithmetic.

**Anu Murugan**
Tamil Nadu

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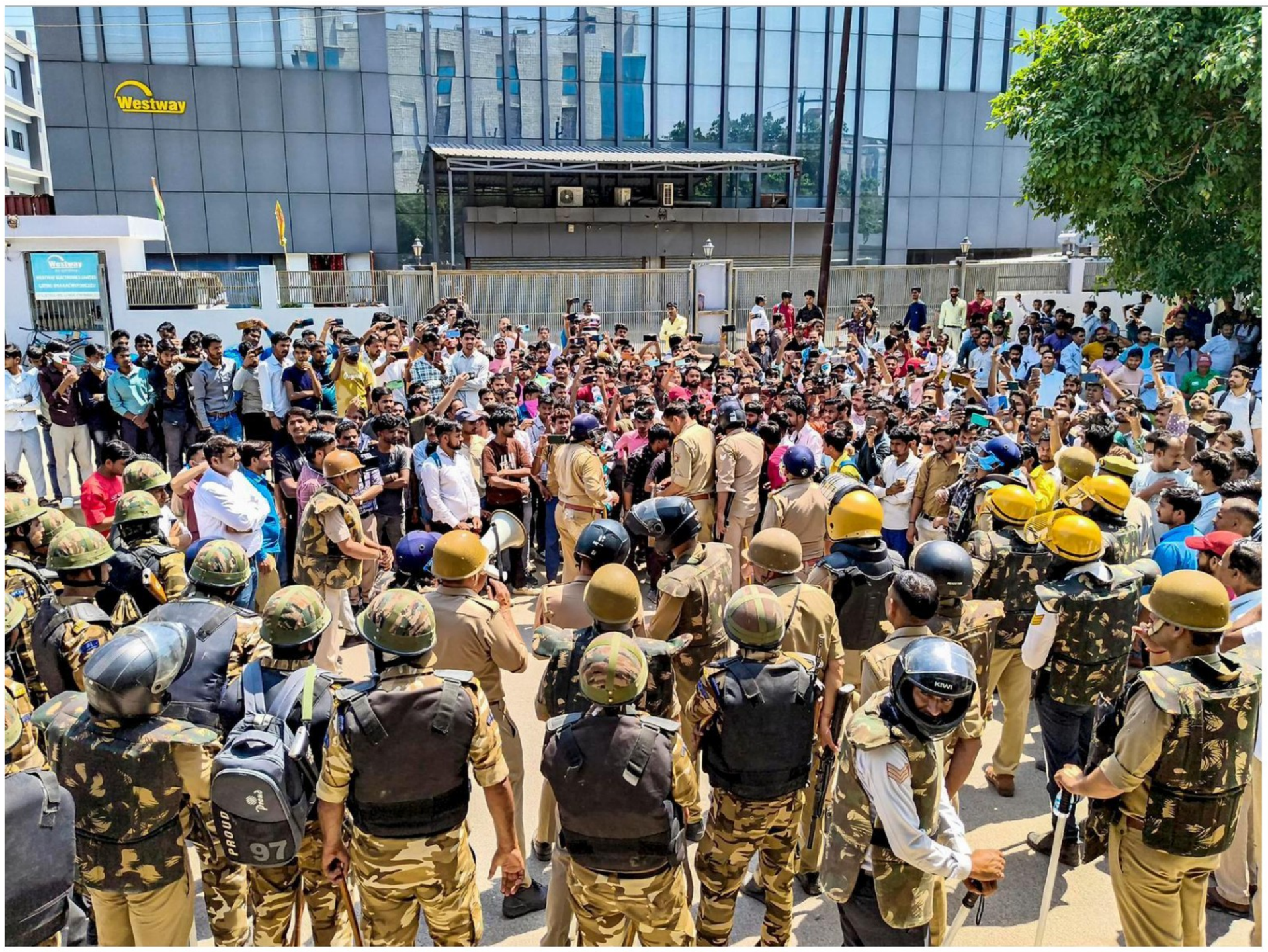


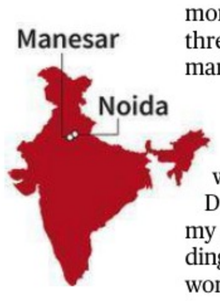

Police stand guard as factory workers protest in Noida, Uttar Pradesh. Police claim there was arson, vandalism, and stone-throwing. PTI

# How the war on Iran set off worker protests around Delhi

Thousands of workers, many of them migrants in the industrial clusters of Uttar Pradesh and Haryana, are on protest, demanding dignity at work and at least ₹20,000 as the minimum wage, in the light of rising LPG costs. **A. M. Jigeesh** and **Ashok Kumar** report on workers' claims that the administration has resorted to suppression by taking workers into custody and putting their leaders under house arrest, after marginal pay hikes

Gangeshwar Datt Sharma was born in 1969. He dropped out of school after a secondary education, and soon after, joined a shoe-making unit in Noida, which catered to the Russian market. The son of a post office employee, Sharma's family had no political background; nor had he encountered activism at close quarters. But within months of joining work, the young Sharma got involved with the workers' movement.

In 1988, the management expelled some workers for asking for their rights. Police intervened and arrested workers for protesting. "I felt that it is an injustice and I started organising workers against the exploitation by managements. I decided to work for them," Sharma says at his house in Barola village, near Sector 49 in Noida, Uttar Pradesh, where he has been under house arrest for more than a week. Also under house arrest are three others, while over 350 people, including many women, have been arrested by the police.




Sharma, now a leader of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) of Noida district, faces such arrests and detentions whenever workers or farmers protest in Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, or Haryana. "I have faced such curbs on my freedom more than 100 times," he says, adding that he lost his job in 2000 for standing with workers, and is now a full-time worker of CITU. He is currently in touch with workers in the region over the phone and via social media.

On April 2, contractual workers at the Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India, went on a flash strike at the plant in Manesar's Industrial Model Township, Haryana. They demanded a wage hike. On April 8, around 3,000 workers from a dozen firms, including many women from garment units, assembled at the Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation complex at IMT Manesar. They demanded wage revisions, citing rising living costs. Soon the protests by casual workers spread like a wave to Noida, Faridabad, and Sonipat.

Labour officials mediated discussions with industry representatives, while police reinforcement was summoned to maintain order. First Haryana, then U.P., both announced an increase in wages, but the uneasy calm in Haryana was shattered on April 9 as workers clashed with police, leaving many injured and several vehicles damaged. The striking workers rejected the announced wage hike, deeming it "not enough", and reiterated their ₹20,000 per month demand. Some companies hadn't assured implementation of the hike, fuelling the unrest.

It wasn't just a matter of money. Female and male workers are, in one voice, questioning the conditions in the factories where they work. "We are not treated with dignity. Managers speak with expletives. We are not allowed to talk back. If anyone asks for their rights, they will be thrown out," says Govind, from Bihar, who works in a textile unit in Noida, which is part of the supply chain of global fast-fashion brands.

> We are not treated with dignity. Managers speak with expletives. We are not allowed to talk back. If anyone asks for their rights, they will be thrown out
>
> **GOVIND,** Textile unit worker

Sharma can now see his younger self among the thousands of young workers who are protesting in the National Capital Region. He draws a parallel to an agitation he led in 1997, when more than a lakh workers in Noida protested and went on strike attracting nationwide attention.

Unlike past protests, Sharma notes that the current protests have young workers, women and men, who have no unions and leaders. "Workers are agitated over the lack of proper wages and their working conditions. The police are trying to suppress the agitations. The government has to be blamed for this. Had they increased the minimum wages, workers would not have protested. Had they allowed trade union leaders to talk to workers, we could have convinced them against any violence," Sharma says.

The Commissioner of Police of Gautam Budh Nagar district, Noida, Laxmi Singh, said in a statement to the media that two social media accounts operating from Pakistan tried to instigate workers by making false claims of deaths in police action. She said a case has been registered against the handles. The police, however, have denied keeping trade union leaders under house arrest.

## Honda workers' strike

The simmering discontent among Honda's 1,000-odd casual workforce – whose wages remain unchanged for the past 11 years – blew up after regular or full-time workers reached an agreement with the management for a "decent hike".

A 600% price spike in the cooking gas prices in the open market owing to the West Asia conflict, proved to be the proverbial last straw on the camel's back. "Cooking gas, which was earlier ₹100 per kg, now costs ₹600-700. With room rents in the range of ₹3,000-4,000 per month, and cooking gas cost going up to ₹2,500, a casual worker with monthly wages of ₹10,000 is left with no savings," says Ramnath, a garment worker from Bihar, echoing the views of the large workforce.

Gangeshwar Datt Sharma, secretary, the Centre of Indian Trade Unions, Noida, has been under house arrest for more than a week, following a protest demanding hike in wages. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Sumitra (name changed), a garment worker in Noida, adds that the minimum salary is the major issue. "Skilled workers get ₹13,940. Most of us are migrants. Our children are studying. We pay ₹12 for a unit of power. Gas prices have increased. We need at least ₹20,000 to 22,000 to live here," says Sumitra, who hails from Odisha. Her colleague Janaki (name changed) says it has been three years since she visited her family in Odisha.

"Even if close relatives die, we are unable to go. The journey is unaffordable," she says. "Water, electricity, cooking gas, everything is costly."

Honda workers demanded minimum wages of ₹20,000 per month, and an annual hike of 12-15%. They ended their strike two days later following an assurance from the contractor that they would get a marginal hike and free food in the canteen, as per labour department officials.

The workers' success triggered a series of strikes across automotive sector companies in the Manesar industrial area. Soon, workers in the garment manufacturing sector and those in the export workforce joined the strike.

## 'No medical assistance'

Menaka (name changed to protect privacy), a worker in a textile factory, says it is the workers who are running companies. "But it is the owners who are earning crores without working. We don't have even cycles. They have big cars bought from the work we do," she says, adding that there is no medical assistance even for needle injuries, common in textile factories. When the new salaries were announced, workers say managers told them they would have to work harder. "They are saying that company is in losses. They are even threatening to curb our toilet rights," says Menaka, who migrated from Madhya Pradesh for work.

Rent increases twice a year in Nangla and Bhangel, where lakhs of workers reside in small rooms. The increase ranges from ₹200 to ₹500. "Landlords have started demanding more rent a day after the salary was increased," says Mahesh (name changed), another worker in Noida, who works in an air-conditioning components unit.

Mahesh says his colleague is in police custody. "They just raised their voice for our rights. Now, they are arrested. A lot of workers, including women, were injured in police action. No one is talking about it," he says. "There is no pressure on anyone else, but only on workers."

Workers say companies have not been remitting their provident fund and State insurance contributions; many have not paid out bonuses. "Our problems doubled after the 2020 lockdown. Now, companies know that we have no place to go," says Namita, a diploma holder in technology, who works in a factory for a salary of ₹11,000.

Uttam, a mechanic from Uttarakhand, says, "We protested for our rights. Every section of people is unhappy. Farmers are unhappy. Workers are unhappy. Only those with power and money are happy," he says.

There are approximately 20,000 industrial units in Noida and Greater Noida employing about 17 lakh workers.

## Labour codes, a wage hike, violence

In November 2025, India's 29 labour laws were brought under four labour codes. An increase in the Variable Dearness Allowance was announced by the Chief Labour Commissioner, effective April 1, 2026. It actually applied only to Central government employees (mines, construction, railways, among others), but rumours buzzed about it being for all.

Social media videos soon went viral, claiming that the government had hiked the minimum wage to ₹20,000 per month and those being paid anything less should make their complaints to the Labour Department. These videos fuelled unrest.

The protests were not a sudden occurrence. In February 2026, several thousand contract workers at the Indian Oil Corporation's Panipat refinery had struck work over 12-hour shifts, low wages, and safety concerns. The protest saw clashes, police lathi-charges, and intervention by the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).

Amid the new wave of resentment that spilled onto the streets in April, the Haryana government announced a minimum wage hike of 35% for unskilled, semi-skilled, and other categories of the workers on April 8 evening, terming it a "major gift" for them. While the wages for unskilled workers were increased from ₹11,274.60 to ₹15,220, those for semi-skilled workers were increased from ₹12,430.18 to ₹16,780.74.

In Uttar Pradesh, the last wage revision was in 2014. "They were supposed to revise wages in 2019, then, in 2024. They did not do this and are now blaming 'Urban Naxals' and Pakistan for being behind the protests. The Government's policies are the reason for the protests," Sharma says. Urban Naxals is a derogatory term used for intellectuals who speak up for social causes.

In Delhi, when a worker gets ₹18,000 as minimum wage, in Noida, a worker gets about ₹11,000. After the protests, the Government revised it to ₹13,600.

The agitating workers in Haryana and U.P. claim the police resorted to an unprovoked baton charge, injuring many, including women.

However, the two FIRs registered by the police, based on the complaints of Human Resource departments of Richa Global and Modelama Exports Private Limited, accused the workers of resorting to vandalism, stone-pelting, and damage to government vehicles. Both the FIRs accused the Inqlabi Mazdoor Kendra and the Automobile Industrial Contract Workers Union of provoking the striking workers. Prohibitory orders were also put into force. The police invoked over a dozen charges in the two FIRs, including attempt to murder and voluntarily causing hurt and assault to deter a public servant from discharge of duty. Six of those arrested – Akash, Harish Chand, Pintu Kumar, Raju Singh, Shyambir and Ajit Singh – are named as "key conspirators" and dubbed "outsiders" with no affiliation with any company in Gurugram. The police claim that WhatsApp chats of the accused revealed that they had planned to set the factories on fire using petrol bombs.

Advocate Monu Kuhar, representing the accused workers in the Manesar case, highlights the wage gap between contractual and regular workers doing similar tasks as an important aspect of the unrest. "Contractual workers lack union rights, leaving them without leadership to negotiate," he says. He urges the government to address the protest as a livelihood issue, not a law-and-order problem. He also objects to the police labelling his clients as "outsiders", and emphasises that they are members of workers' rights associations.

Led by the CITU, workers' rights' activists and unions say the hike is "too little, too late", coming after a gap of over a decade, when wages should be revised every five years. "During the proceedings of the committee constituted by the government to address this issue, CITU had formally demanded that the State's minimum wage be fixed at ₹30,000. This demand was grounded in the criteria established by both the government and Supreme Court," says CITU, Haryana, general secretary, Jai Bhagwan.

He explains that the committee held nine meetings and during a meeting in Panipat on December 29, 2025, it had unanimously forwarded a proposal to the government recommending a minimum wage of ₹23,196. This committee comprised representatives from the Labour Department and industry owners. He also demands that the minimum wages be uniform across the National Capital Region comprising the National Capital Territory of Delhi, and parts of Haryana, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh.

The Manesar Industrial Welfare Association (MIWA), representing 600 units in the region, put out a statement saying that it unequivocally supports the principle of fair compensation for the workforce, but "the recent decision by the Haryana government to hike minimum wages, while well-intentioned, has unfortunately been implemented without adequate consultation with key industry stakeholders, including MIWA".

Ramswarat Rajbhar, Sharma's colleague in CITU, led a delegation of trade union leaders to meet government officials to demand both a wage hike and the release of arrested workers. Rajbhar was allegedly put under house arrest soon after the meeting. "We have demanded that a Wage Board be formed for workers in this industrial area with representatives from workers, managements, and government as members in it. This is the way forward for an amicable resolution of the crisis."

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From Page One

## Bill part of delimitation package defeated

Senior Congress leader and Kerala MP K.C. Venugopal countered this offer with two conditions: that not only should the provision be written into the Bill, but the government should also introduce a separate amendment delinking the implementation of women's reservation from delimitation. Mr. Shah categorically rejected the second demand, calling it a "trap". Both he and Prime Minister Narendra Modi had earlier given verbal assurances that all States would see a uniform 50% increase in Lok Sabha seats as the House expands from the current cap of 550 to about 850 members.

Mr. Shah accused the Opposition of manufacturing a north-south divide by propagating what he called a false narrative that southern States would lose Parliamentary representation. "Southern States have equal rights in this House as northern States. In fact, Lakshadweep has the same rights as Uttar Pradesh or Bihar," he said. Lakshadweep has fewer than 50,000 voters.

Making a strong pitch for delimitation, Mr. Shah argued that the principle of "one person, one vote, one value" has been violated due to the freeze based on the 1971 Census. He pointed out that India's population has grown from about 54.79 crore then to nearly 140 crore in 2026, leading to stark disparities in constituency sizes. Citing Malkajgiri in Telangana, which has about 48 lakh voters, he asked how a single MP could represent such a large electorate. Mr. Shah also argued that opposition to delimitation effectively meant opposition to increasing the number of seats reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

In his more than 70-minute-long speech, the Home Minister also addressed Opposition allegations that the government was trying to sidestep the ongoing caste count while implementing women's reservation. Citing the Congress's historical approach to reservations, from the Indira Gandhi government ignoring the Mandal Commission report to the stand taken against its implementation by Rajiv Gandhi, who was then in Opposition, Mr. Shah accused the party of championing the Other Backward Class cause only after its loss in the 2014 Lok Sabha election. "I say to these people, especially to the Congress, that just by raising slogans in speeches, the backward class of this country will not consider you their well-wishers," he said. Mr. Shah also hit out at claims that Muslim women should be included in the reservation framework. "The Constitution does not provide for reservation on the basis of religion and BJP will never allow this," he asserted.

## Iran declares Strait of Hormuz open

After the war broke out, Iran took control of the waterway. Daily ship traffic through the Strait fell sharply, dropping from more than 100 vessels a day to single digits. Mr. Trump welcomed Iran's decision. "Iran has just announced that the Strait of Hormuz is fully open and ready for full passage. Thank you," he said in a post in capital letters. He also said Iran, "with the help of the US, has removed or is removing all sea mines" in the waterway. "Iran has agreed to never close the Strait of Hormuz again. It will no longer be used as a weapon against the world," he added.

Mr. Trump, however, said the U.S. blockade of Iranian ports, which he announced on April 12, "will remain in full force and effect.., until such time as our transaction with Iran is 100% complete. This process should go very quickly in that most of the points are already negotiated."

The U.S. Central Command has said it has enforced a complete blockade of ships going to and coming from Iranian ports, though shipping data suggest some Iran-linked ships have crossed the U.S. blockade. The war in Lebanon was a key sticking point in the U.S.-Iran ceasefire that was announced on April 8. Iran said Lebanon was covered under the ceasefire agreement, but Israel initially rejected it and said its war against Hezbollah would continue.

Israel said on Thursday it would halt attacks on Lebanon but its troops would stay in the seized territory in southern Lebanon.

Mr. Trump said the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz was not linked to the Lebanon truce. "The deal is not tied, in any way, to Lebanon, but we will make Lebanon great again," said Mr. Trump, who also thanked Pakistan and its "great Prime Minister and Field Marshal, two fantastic people".

"The ceasefire was nothing but a result of Hezbollah's steadfastness and the unity of the Axis of Resistance; and we will deal with this ceasefire with caution, and we will remain together until the full realisation of victory," Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said on Thursday.

Brent crude futures were down roughly 10% on Friday, extending earlier losses, at below $90 a barrel. The U.S. benchmark WTI was also down 10% at around $82 a barrel.

India on Friday expressed formal support for the Israel-Lebanon ceasefire. Speaking at the weekly press briefing, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said India favours "any step" that will end hostilities in the West Asian region.

France and Britain said on Friday they will lead a multinational mission to ensure freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz, while emphasising the force would be entirely defensive and only deployed once lasting peace in the region was agreed.

*(With inputs from Kallol Bhattacharjee)*

# South stood united, made its voice heard, says T.N. CM

Stalin says delimitation should be a process that strengthens the Union, not weakens its balance; voicing support for women's reservation Bill, he adds that voters will see through the NDA's 'optics'

**The Hindu Bureau**
CHENNAI

After the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026, introduced by the BJP-led Union government, was defeated in the Lok Sabha, DMK president and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin said the South stood united, made its voice heard and democracy prevailed.

The Bill aimed to increase the strength of the Lok Sabha through delimitation enabling implementation of the 33% reservation for women in the House. It required 352 votes to pass, a two-thirds majority with 528 MPs voting, but got only 298.

In a post on *X*, Mr. Stalin said delimitation is about representation and about who gets a voice in India's democracy. It must strengthen the Union, not weaken its balance. "Guided by Periyar [E.V. Ramasamy], inspired by Anna [C.N. Annadurai], and strengthened by Kalaignar [M. Karunanidhi], Tamil Nadu has always stood for justice, dignity, and federalism," he wrote.

> We asked for fairness, for a process that is consulted, thought through, and agreed upon. Not one pushed through for political gain. This is our resolve: every time Tamil Nadu's rights are challenged, every time its identity or culture is questioned, and every time the federal spirit of India is tested, Tamil Nadu will rise united and unwavering
>
> **M.K. STALIN**
> Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

The Chief Minister said that "we never opposed delimitation". "We asked for fairness, for a process that is consulted, thought through, and agreed upon. Not one pushed through for political gain. This is our resolve: every time Tamil Nadu's rights are challenged, every time its identity or culture is questioned, and every time the federal spirit of India is tested, Tamil Nadu will rise united and unwavering."

Mr. Stalin thanked the members of the Opposition parties who remained united in defeating the Bill.

In another post, Mr. Stalin, while referring to the Women's Reservation Bill, said "the BJP [government] called for a Special Session in the middle of State elections, over two-and-a-half years after the Bill was passed in 2023, only to confirm that it cannot be implemented without a Census and delimitation."

"Let us be very clear, we want the Women's Reservation Bill to be implemented now. Tamil Nadu was among the earliest to implement reservation for women in local bodies. Our concern is with delimitation, which requires careful thought to ensure it is fair, especially for southern States. We asked for consultation, clarity, and consensus," he said.

"The NDA could have delinked it. They chose not to. They could have used this time to consult States on delimitation. They chose not to. They could have addressed these concerns in the Bill. They chose not to. This is not justice. This is not intent. This is optics. Women in Tamil Nadu see through this," Mr. Stalin said. He said that women across the country are not a vote bank. "They are watching. The truth is simple: the BJP could have delivered. It chose not to," he said.

# 'Stalin tried to get political dividend by enacting drama'

**T. Ramakrishnan**
SALEM

AIADMK general secretary and Leader of the Opposition Edappadi K. Palaniswami on Friday termed as "unnecessary melodrama" Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK president M.K. Stalin's protest against the Delimitation Bill and criticism against his party that by supporting the measure, the AIADMK was "betraying the interests" of the State.

In a conversation with *The Hindu* at his residence at Nedunchalai Nagar in Salem, Mr. Palaniswami said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister for Home Affairs Amit Shah had clarified their position in Parliament. Mr. Modi had reiterated the assurance that "no injustice" would be done to any State, while Mr. Shah had given detailed figures, Mr. Palaniswami said. "Yet, he [Mr. Stalin] claims what Mr. Amit Shah says should be written in water. Should we write on flowing water what he [Mr. Stalin] says?" the AIADMK leader asked.

Edappadi K. Palaniswami

Stating that Tamil Nadu's share in the Lok Sabha would go up from 7.18% to 7.23%, Mr. Palaniswami said, "This disproves what he [Mr. Stalin] has been saying. For political vendetta, deliberately, they [the DMK] are deceiving people by wearing black shirts. They have lost their influence among the people who are all opposed to them."

Emphasising that a comprehensive explanation had been given in Parliament, Mr. Palaniswami said, "As the Chief Minister is not able to tolerate this, he is trying to obtain political dividend by enacting drama and confusing the people."

# SC asks if judges must rise above religious beliefs in matters of conscience

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday sought a clarification from senior advocate and jurist Rajeev Dhavan whether judges, functioning as a constitutional court, must rise above their own personal religious consciousness while called on to examine matters of freedom of conscience.

The question came from Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah, who is a member of the nine-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant hearing the Sabarimala review case primarily on the extent to which courts could judicially review religious practices, and whether an "inquisitorial" scrutiny would be a breach of Article 25 (freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion) and Article 26 (right to manage religious affairs).

"You said freedom of conscience has a very wide amplification. Are you hinting that as judges, as a constitutional court, religion and conscience cannot be equated as religion may be personal to me, but then when I have to judge, I have to rise above that religious consciousness to a level where I balance it with constitutional provisions and see the larger picture emerging from it?" Justice Amanullah asked Mr. Dhavan.

Justice B.V. Nagarathna, also on the Bench, asked if Mr. Dhavan was arguing that "conscience was something larger than religion" or whether conscience should take its colour from religion. She asked if conscience and religion were co-terminus.

"So far we have been told 'that when it is religion, do not touch'... Probably as a constitutional authority, and under the scheme of the Constitution, when we are called upon to get into the area of conscience, we should not be restricted by the term 'religion'? Justice Amanullah asked.

Mr. Dhavan responded that the persona of a judge cuts across the Constitution. He illustrated that a judge cannot be identified with his personal religion when asked to examine a matter of faith and conscience. He said the freedom of conscience, which is mentioned separately from the right to freely profess, practice and propagate religion in Article 25, is an expansive right. "There are two rights. They are two vital rights. Exercise of the right to conscience must be done respectfully and in a bona fide manner," he said.

**Internal right**

Justice M.M. Sundresh indicated that freedom of conscience was an internal right to nurse a belief while the freedom of religion was an external manifestation of that conscience.

The Supreme Court would resume the hearing on April 21.

# SC warns Rajasthan, M.P., U.P. over illegal mining in Chambal sanctuary

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday said it would not hesitate to take the extraordinary step of deploying paramilitary forces to curb illegal sand mining in the ecologically fragile and protected National Chambal Gharial Sanctuary if the States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh fail to take "concrete measures" to tackle the menace within a month, by the next date of hearing on May 11.

The warning was part of a 28-page order passed by a Bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta, which took *suo motu* cognisance of illegal sand mining within the sanctuary, resulting in severe degradation of critical wildlife habitats, including that of the endangered gharials.

Justice Mehta, who pronounced the operative part of the order in the courtroom, cautioned that the court would not only impose a complete ban on sand mining in the States but also impose "heavy penalties" on them for failing to safeguard critical habitats and the river ecosystem. "The continued degradation of natural resources and fragile ecosystems for short-term gains and greed, coupled with administrative indifference, cannot be countenanced in a system governed by the rule of law," the court said.

The degradation of natural resources and fragile ecosystems for short-term gains cannot be countenanced, the court said. FILE PHOTO

The court said the States' explanations about sand mining happening right under their very noses reeked of apathy, tacit connivance and even a sense of helplessness in the face of the "superior firepower" and acts of lawlessness of the miners. The order referred to brutal murders of forest guards by sand miners in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

Issuing a series of directions, the court ordered Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh to install high-resolution and Wi-Fi enabled CCTV cameras in areas affected by sand mining and ensure that live visuals from these cameras are fed directly to the offices of the district police chiefs and divisional forest officers.

Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan should initiate a pilot project to install GPS tracking devices on vehicles used for mining in Morena and Dholpur districts.

## Four Maoists killed in Jharkhand

**Amit Bhelari**
PATNA

Four Maoists, including a key regional committee leader, were killed in a joint security operation in Jharkhand on Friday, the police said.

On Thursday, the Jharkhand Police and the 209 COBRA Battalion launched a search operation in the forest region between Hazaribagh and Chatra.

CPI (Maoist) regional committee member Shahdev Mahto is among the dead. As per the police, Mahto, a resident of Hazaribagh district, carried a reward of ₹15 lakh.

# FIR can be registered against Rahul over British citizenship charge: HC

**Ishita Mishra**
NEW DELHI

**Petition points to documents related to a firm said to have been incorporated in the U.K. in 2003**

The Lucknow Bench of the Allahabad High Court on Friday directed the registration of an FIR and further investigation in the matter of alleged British citizenship of Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi.

Bench of Justice Subhash Vidyarthi, allowed the petition filed by S. Vignesh Shishir. The petitioner had demanded registration of an FIR against Mr. Gandhi under provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the Passport Act, the Foreigners Act, and the Official Secrets Act stating that the LoP has British citizenship.

Mr. Shishir, whose social media profile says he is a BJP member from Karnataka, had first approached the Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate (ACJM) court in Lucknow, which had declined to direct the registration of the FIR in the matter.

Before the High Court, the petitioner alleged that Mr. Gandhi had declared himself a British national in documents related to a company, M/s Backops Ltd., reportedly incorporated in the United Kingdom in 2003. It was contended that filings associated with the company, including annual returns submitted in 2005 and 2006, listed his nationality as British and included addresses in London and Hampshire. The petitioner submitted that the company was dissolved in 2009 and argued that disclosures made by Mr. Gandhi during the 2004 Lok Sabha election, including details of the company and a bank account in the U.K. warranted a probe.

## Vice-President C.P. Radhakrishnan to visit Sri Lanka tomorrow

**Meera Srinivasan**
COLOMBO

Vice-President C.P. Radhakrishnan will visit Sri Lanka on April 19 and 20, a statement from the Ministry of External Affairs said on Friday, referring to it as "the first bilateral visit" by the Vice-President to Sri Lanka.

During his visit, he will call on President Anura Kumara Dissanayake and Prime Minister Harini Amarasuriya, "as well as other dignitaries and Indian diaspora leaders," the statement said, adding that the visit follows recemnt "high-level engagements between the two nations and will further reinforce the millennia-old people-to-people ties that bind India and Sri Lanka."

**Meeting with Oppn.**

Colombo-based political sources told *The Hindu* that the visiting Vice-President is scheduled to meet Opposition politicians, including those from parties representing the Tamils from the north and east, as well as the Malaiyaha Tamils from the island's hill country.

# A violation of 'one person, one vote, one value': Shah

Home Minister points to the vast disparities in the number of people represented by MPs; he says 'north-south divide' narrative is detrimental to India and it will not diminish popularity of govt.

**Vijaita Singh**
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said the principle of "one person, one vote, one value" was being violated, pointing out that while some MPs represented 48 lakh people, the others represented barely six lakh.

Mr. Shah said the "north-south divide" narrative being engineered was detrimental to the country, and that the people of Lakshadweep had as much right on Parliament as those from Bihar or Uttar Pradesh. He said the narrative was not going to diminish the popularity of the government and even if the Opposition "greyed their hair", they would not be able to occupy the Treasury benches.

Home Minister Amit Shah pointed out that while some MPs represent 48 lakh people, others represent barely six lakh. ANI

A Constitutional Amendment Bill that sought to implement 33% reservation for women in Parliament and Assembly constituencies through delimitation was defeated in the Lok Sabha, as it could not get two-thirds of votes from members present in the House. According to available figures, out of 528 MPs present, 298 voted in favour and 230 against the Bill.

"From 1971, there is a freeze on the increase of Lok Sabha seats. Malkajgir in Telangana has 48 lakh voters, Bengaluru North has 29 lakh, Ghaziabad, represented by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh once, has 28 lakh voters, North-west Delhi 27 lakh voters. There are 127 seats where there are more than 20 lakh voters. How can one MP fulfil the aspirations of 48 lakh people? One person, one vote, one value is being violated, somewhere it is 48 lakh and somewhere it is six lakh. There is no value for one person, one vote. If they (Opposition) support the delimitation, then each vote will have the same value," Mr. Shah said.

Responding to Samajwadi Party MP Akhilesh Yadav, who intervened to say that the figure for Ghaziabad was much more, the Home Minister said that the member did not know if he was speaking in favour of the Delimitation Bill, 2026, or against it, and that was the precise point he intended to make.

Mr. Shah said that in 1976, the population of the country was 54.89 crore and today it is 140 crore. "They (Opposition) want the number of MPs then and now to remain the same," he said.

The Minister said the Delimitation Commission would have required public hearings in all the 543 constituencies and it could not have been completed by 2029, affecting the implementation of the women's reservation Act by the 2029 general election. "If the women's reservation Act is to be implemented, then the delimitation will have to be done now, that is why the Bill is being brought now," he said.

He said Tamil Nadu had 39 Lok Sabha seats and if the women's quota was applied, 13 seats would be reserved for women and 26 seats would be in the open category. "If the delimitation was done according to 2011 Census, then the State would lose six seats. That is why we are increasing 50% seats in all States, so that the pro-rata distribution is not affected. Now, 20 seats will be added, taking the total number to 59 and those reserved for women will be 20," he said.

**Caste count**

The Minister said that the decennial Census was delayed due to COVID-19 pandemic, and in 2024, when the process started, several parties demanded that caste should also be enumerated.

"We decided in 2025 that caste enumeration will be done. The column for caste will be there when population enumeration (second phase) is done. Caste is not enumerated during the household Census (first phase), which is ongoing. They are not interested in caste count, they want to tie us in knots," he said.

Refuting the claims of the Opposition that the Bill was brought to negate the caste Census, Mr. Shah said the process started three months ago and the first phase of Population Census 2027 was going on.

"I thought they wouldn't oppose the reservation for mothers... The Bill has provision to count the latest published Census. I can bring an amendment in one-hour... They are opposing the Bill because it will enhance the PM's goodwill among the women...," he said.

# Opposition has blocked an attempt to alter electoral framework of India: Rahul

**Sandeep Phukan**
NEW DELHI

The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on Friday said the defeat of the Constitution Amendment Bill linked to the women's reservation law marked a decisive pushback against "an attack on the Constitution" and asserted that the Opposition had successfully blocked an attempt to alter India's electoral framework.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said the defeat of the Bill marked a pushback against an attack on the Constitution. PTI

Speaking to reporters after the Constitution Amendment Bill failed to secure the required two-thirds majority in the Lok Sabha, Mr. Gandhi said the government's proposal was "not a women's Bill" but a political exercise aimed at reshaping representation.

He said if Prime Minister Narendra Modi brought the original 2023 women's reservation law into force immediately, the Opposition would support it unconditionally. "The entire Opposition will support you and ensure women's reservation from today itself," he said, addressing the Prime Minister directly.

Soon after the vote, sources said Mr. Gandhi called up Trinamool Congress general secretary and MP Abhishek Banerjee, thanking him for his party's role in defeating the Bills despite the busy election campaign schedule.

The two leaders are said to have discussed how the Opposition's mobilisation had proved decisive despite electoral pressures, with Mr. Banerjee remarking that "the tides are turning" against the BJP.

Earlier in the Lok Sabha, Mr. Gandhi had mounted a sharp attack on the government, alleging that the proposed amendments – tied to delimitation and expansion of seats – were an attempt to redraw India's electoral map under the guise of women's empowerment.

"This has nothing to do with empowering women. It is an attempt to change the country's electoral map, using and hiding behind India's women," he said amid repeated interruptions from Treasury benches over his choice of words to describe Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Union Ministers Rajnath Singh and Kiren Rijiju strongly objected to Mr. Gandhi's language and urged Speaker Om Birla to expunge them. Mr. Birla too expressed his displeasure and urged that the Opposition leader's speech should maintain Parliament's dignity.

Continuing with his speech, Mr. Gandhi warned that the move could alter the balance of representation to the disadvantage of southern, northeastern, and smaller States.

"You are scared of the erosion of your strength and are trying to rejig the political map of India," he said, citing past exercises in Jammu and Kashmir and Assam as precedents.

A central plank of Mr. Gandhi's critique was the alleged bypassing of a caste census and referred to what he called a "historical truth" that Other Backward Classes (OBCs), Dalits, minorities, and women have faced systemic exclusion. "You call OBCs Hindus, you call Dalits Hindus, but you do not give them any space in the power structure of the country," he said.

"There is a fundamental confusion – you think you are the people of India, you think you are the armed forces. You are not the people of India, and you are not the armed forces. Stop hiding behind them," he said.

# Opposition leaders hail 'victory of Constitution'

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Friday said a united Opposition defeated the attempt to "harm this country's democracy, Constitution and federalism".

"We express heartfelt thanks to all the leaders of the Opposition parties," Mr. Kharge said in a post on X.

He was reacting after a united Opposition defeated the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026, which sought to redistribute Lok Sabha seats on the basis of the 2011 Census to expedite the implementation of women's reservation.

"We once again demand from the Modi government that, in accordance with the 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam' passed in 2023, 33% reservation for women be implemented starting from the 2029 elections," he added.

In a post on X, Congress leader K.C. Venugopal said the defeat of the Bills was a victory of the Constitution. "And let there be no confusion, we are ready to support the government if it brings women's reservations from this moment onwards – within the existing framework," he said.

"This is a decisive setback for the Modi government's attempt to redraw India's political map under the guise of women's reservation which was unanimously passed by the Parliament in 2023," CPI general secretary D. Raja told *The Hindu*.

# Rahul's 'no wife issue' remark elicits laughter in LS

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on Friday triggered laughter in the House with a tongue-in-cheek remark that both he and Prime Minister Narendra Modi did not have the "wife issue", as he spoke on the influence of women in public life.

Taking part in a debate on Bills related to the women's reservation law and delimitation, Mr. Gandhi said members across the House had been shaped by women – mothers, sisters, and wives.

"All of us in this room have been influenced, taught, and have learnt a lot from women in our lives - from mothers, sisters, wives," Mr Gandhi said, adding, "Of course, the Prime Minister and myself don't have the wife issue, so we don't get that input, but we have our mothers and sisters."

He made the remark while referring to Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju's light-hearted remark that he (Mr. Rijiju) got a scolding at home as he did not compose a poem for his wife like Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal did.

The Opposition leader also praised his sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's speech that had made Home Minister Amit Shah laugh.

"Yesterday, I was watching my sister achieve in five minutes what I have not been able to do in 20 years of my political career - make Amit Shah*ji* smile," said Mr. Gandhi, triggering laughter in the House.

# Delimitation will turn out to be political demonetisation: Tharoor

**Sandeep Phukan**
NEW DELHI

The march towards a new India should not create a disunited India, Congress member Shashi Tharoor said in the Lok Sabha on Friday.

Sharpening his attack on the government, Mr. Tharoor said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had wrapped the promise of justice to *nari shakti* (women power) in "barbed wire" by tethering women's reservation to delimitation and the expansion of the Parliament.

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor said delimitation requires engagement with States, political parties, and civil society. ANI

Participating in the debate on the three Bills that sought to amend the women's reservation law and set up a Delimitation Commission, the Congress leader urged the government to defer delimitation and decouple it from the reservation measure.

Linking the two, he argued, held the aspirations of Indian women hostage to "one of the most contentious and complex" exercises in the country's history.

"There is near-unanimous support for women's reservation. Pass it now, and let it take effect in the next general election on the existing seat matrix," he said, adding that the government must demonstrate that its commitment goes beyond rhetoric.

Calling for wider consultations, Mr. Tharoor said delimitation required engagement with States, political parties, and civil society, and could not be rushed. He proposed a formal mechanism, such as a Joint Parliamentary Committee, to evolve a new federal compact that safeguards the interests of all States.

"You have proposed delimitation with such haste, the same haste that you showed on demonetisation. Unfortunately, we all know what damage that did to the country. Delimitation will turn out to be political demonetisation. Don't do it, sir," he said.

**'Tyranny of majority'**

He warned that a population-based redraw risked deepening fault lines – between large and small States, the North and the South, and contributor and recipient States. "We risk a tyranny of the demographic majority," he said, cautioning that economically productive and demographically stabilised States could be reduced to "bystanders in their own country".

Referring to Home Minister Amit Shah's assurance that no State would lose seats under a proposed expansion, Mr. Tharoor termed the "50% formula" a "precarious political assurance", not a constitutional guarantee. The legislation, he noted, left the delimitation commission's decisions beyond judicial review and open to alteration by a simple majority.

# BJP is using women as a human shield for elections, says DMK MP Kanimozhi

**Sandeep Phukan**
NEW DELHI

The BJP is using women of India as a human shield for electioneering, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) member Kanimozhi told the Lok Sabha on Friday as she strongly argued for delinking delimitation from the women's reservation law.

DMK MP Kanimozhi urged the Centre to convene a conference of all CMs to move forward on the issue of redrawing constituencies. ANI

Ms. Kanimozhi also suggested that the Centre convene a constitutional conference of all Chief Ministers to move forward on the contentious issue of redrawing legislative constituencies.

Participating in the debate on the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026, which seeks to amend the women's reservation law and implement it for the 2029 Lok Sabha election, and the Delimitation Bill, Ms. Kanimozhi responded to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "*kala tika*" (evil eye spot) jibe.

On Thursday, Mr. Modi, commenting on DMK members in the House wearing black clothes as a sign of protest against the amendment Bill, said their attire worked as a "*kala tika*" to ward off evil eye.

Hitting back, Ms. Kanimozhi who was dressed in a black saree, said, "I am surprised that people who are there to defend Hindutva were not reminded of goddess Kali, the dark goddess who wears black and the one who drives away ego, arrogance and ignorance". She said black was also the colour of DMK's intellectual leader Periyar.

"The BJP is using the women of India as a human shield for electioneering."

The proposed delimitation worked against federalism and punished the southern States for lowering fertility rates, she said.

# 'Centre's approach to delimitation wrong'

**The Hindu Bureau**
SRINAGAR

National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah said on Friday that the Centre's move to introduce Bills on delimitation and women reservation had "people worried" and that the approach adopted was "wrong".

Mr. Abdullah, whose party was a member of the J&K Delimitation Commission in 2021, said, "You saw how delimitation was carried out here (in J&K). It was done so wrongly."

On the women's reservation Bill, Mr. Abdullah said, "It was withdrawn first (by the BJP). Why did they do that? Because people had concerns and they knew a two-thirds majority would not be achieved. Then overnight they reconsidered and decided to bring back the old Bill..."

# BJP to hit the streets to protest against Bill defeat

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

BJP national president Nitin Nabin on Friday said that the party and its allies would hit the streets to "expose the anti-woman mindset" of the Opposition after the Constitution Amendment Bill on women's reservation, along with the Delimitation Bill, failed to pass in the Lok Sabha.

A meeting of National Democratic Alliance (NDA) leaders was convened by the Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha, J.P. Nadda, soon after the Bill was defeated. According to sources, a plan was prepared to take the issue to the public.

"I believe that the Prime Minister made a successful effort, and today could have been a day celebrated in golden letters. However the way Rahul Gandhi and his team have betrayed half the country's population, has been a disgrace. I also believe that this entire episode has completely exposed the Congress' anti-women alliance. They have violated women's rights today. We assure you we will take to the streets to ensure the issue is fully addressed," said Mr. Nabin.

**'Anti-women alliance'**

"Women will now fully stand up against the Congress and its anti-women alliance. The anarchist mindset of Rahul Gandhi's entire team is exposed by the kind of words they use inside the House. Women will be seen on the streets, and they will ask them why did you usurp our rights?" he added.

**NDA MPs protest**

Women MPs from the NDA protested outside Parliament, holding placards and raising slogans against the Opposition, following defeat of the Bill.

The extended Budget session of the Parliament had been convened to debate a Constitutional amendment to the Women's Reservation Act, 2023, along with the Delimitation Bill, 2026.

The proposal sought to link 33% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies to the 2011 Census, instead of waiting for the completion of the next Census exercise.

Several southern States had expressed concerns over a potential reduction in their representation under the proposed framework. The 131st Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2026 was defeated in the Lok Sabha.

## INBRIEF

### Harivansh secures third term as RS Deputy Chairman

Harivansh was elected unopposed for a third consecutive term as Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha on Friday, making him the first nominated member to occupy the chair. His appointment was lauded by members from across party lines. Chairman C.P. Radhakrishnan described it as a "resounding affirmation" of the trust Mr. Harivansh enjoys across parties. Prime Minister Narendra Modi called his election a tribute to his experience and intuitive leadership. Leader of the House J.P. Nadda lauded his integrity, clarity of thought and dedication to democratic values. Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge termed the election "historic".

### India not to host COP33 in 2028, government confirms

India has withdrawn its offer to host the 33rd edition of the Conference of the Parties (COP), scheduled for 2028, the government confirmed on Friday. "We can confirm that India has withdrawn its offer to host COP33. Several issues were taken into account, but India remains fully committed to meeting its responsibilities towards (mitigating) climate change. We are one of the G-20 countries that have fully met their Paris Agreement commitments, and we continue to build on our green agenda," Randhir Jaswal, spokesperson, External Affairs Ministry, said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had in 2023 announced India's interest in hosting COP33.

### SC allows Congress leader to seek bail in Assam court

The Supreme Court on Friday allowed Congress leader Pawan Khera to immediately move the competent court in Assam for anticipatory bail in connection with an FIR filed by Riniki Bhuyan Sharma, wife of Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, over allegations that she held multiple passports. A Bench headed by Justice J.K. Maheshwari refused to grant Mr. Khera's request for protection from arrest till April 21. Mr. Khera said the courts in Assam were closed and that he was apprehensive of arrest by the Assam Police by Monday. The Assam court would decide the plea for anticipatory bail on its own merits and based on the materials placed on record.

### Tipra Motha scores massive victory in TTAADC elections

The Tipra Motha on Friday retained power in the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC) by registering a spectacular victory, winning more than three-fourth of seats. The regional party, founded and led by royal scion Pradyot Kishore Manikya, won 24 out of 28 seats, while the BJP ended with four. The BJP's downfall surprised the party, which had expected a win after a three-month campaign. Chief Minister Manik Saha travelled to almost all constituencies of the council and presided over programmes. The BJP even managed to get two senior Tipra Motha leaders into the party, but both lost.

## Mob attacks Assam forest range office, many injured

**The Hindu Bureau**
GUWAHATI

A mob attacked an office of the Assam Forest Department in Chirang district on Friday.

The mob, protesting the detention of some locals who had allegedly encroached upon forest land, vandalised the Runikhata Forest Range office and residential quarters, torched more than half-a-dozen government vehicles on its premises, and took away some weapons.

Officials in the northwestern Assam district said the police used force to control the situation and recovered the weapons, but the violence continued. More than 30 people, mostly police personnel, were injured.

The area had been tense since Thursday night after a few people from the Adivasi community were detained for allegedly encroaching upon land at the Ripu-Chirang Reserve Forest. Protesters told journalists that the forest personnel had assaulted some of them, including women, on Thursday night.

"The unrest will continue until the guilty forest personnel are arrested," one of them said.

# Two Trinamool Congress leaders face I-T searches

Officials conduct searches at residences of MLA Debashish Kumar and Kumar Saha, who proposed Mamata's nomination; party workers criticise BJP, allege that poll-related documents were seized

**Shiv Sahay Singh**
KOLKATA

The Income Tax Department on Friday conducted searches at the residence and election office of Debasish Kumar, a senior Trinamool Congress leader and candidate from the Rashbehari Assembly seat in Kolkata.

Mr. Kumar, the MLA from Rashbehari and a key party leader in south Kolkata, had earlier been questioned twice by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with a land-grabbing case.

A team of Income Tax officials reached his residence on Manoharpukur Road in the morning and also searched his election office in the same area.

The searches triggered sharp political reactions, with party workers gathering in the area and raising slogans against the BJP. The Trinamool workers alleged that officials seized election-related documents, including lists of booth-level agents.

Rashbehari, a key constituency in south Kolkata, is witnessing a contest between Mr. Kumar and the BJP's Swapan Dasgupta.

A security personnel stands guard outside the residence of TMC leader Debasish Kumar during an Income Tax raid, in Kolkata. PTI

Searches were also carried out at the residence of another Trinamool leader, Kumar Saha, in south Kolkata. Party supporters gathered outside his residence but did not disrupt the functioning of officials.

Later in the day, the premises linked to Mr. Saha were searched at Elgin Road under the Bhabanipur Assembly seat of south Kolkata.

Mr. Saha, known to be associated with a local educational institution, was among the four individuals from different faiths who had proposed the nomination of Trinamool Congress chairperson and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee from the Bhabanipur seat.

**'Will dethrone them'**

"I have seen many PMs. (But) I have never seen such a PM. *Mota Bhai* has come along with ED, CBI and Income Tax. The people of Bengal will tell you the result of targeting Bengal. After winning Bengal, we will dethrone them from Delhi," Ms. Banerjee said, addressing a gathering in north Bengal.

Summonses have been issued to other Trinamool candidates contesting the Assembly election. Bhangabanpur candidate Manab Kumar Parua was asked to appear before the NIA earlier this month, while the ED issued summons to the family members of Bidhannagar candidate Sujit Bose.

On April 13, the ED arrested Vinesh Chandel, cofounder and director of political consultancy firm I-PAC, in New Delhi, in connection with a money-laundering case linked to the West Bengal coal scam. I-PAC is working with the Trinamool in the 2026 Assembly polls.

On April 10, the ED's Kolkata Zonal Office conducted searches under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) on 17 premises across West Bengal in the Public Distribution Scam (PDS) case. The agency on Friday said these searches resulted in the seizure of ₹30.9 lakh in cash, incriminating documents, and digital evidence.

## Police quiz spouse of accused in TCS case

**Vinaya Deshpande Pandit**
MUMBAI

Nida Khan, named as an accused in one of the nine first information reports (FIRs) registered in the Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) sexual harassment and forcible conversions case, is set to move a local court in Nashik to seek anticipatory bail, her lawyer said.

One of the grounds for seeking anticipatory bail is that she is currently pregnant.

Meanwhile, the Special Investigation Team on Friday quizzed Ms. Khan's husband in Mumbra. The police issued a statement saying Ms. Khan was absconding and that three teams had been formed to trace her.

"We took Ms. Nida Khan's husband into custody and questioned him. He gave us an address, saying she had gone to one of their relatives' place. We immediately dispatched a police team there, but found the house locked. Her phone is also switched off. If she has nothing to hide, why is she not appearing in front of the police?" asked Nashik Assistant Commissioner of Police Sandip Mitke.

# Cash incentives for women steer Bengal poll discourse

**Shiv Sahay Singh**
**Shrabana Chatterjee**
KOLKATA

With fewer than seven days remaining before the first phase of polling in West Bengal, not only are political party leaders working hard to capture voters' attention, but welfare schemes offering cash incentives to women in the State are also playing a significant role.

As the West Bengal election campaign reaches its peak, a contest between the *Lakshmir Bhandar* of the Trinamool Congress and the *Matri Shakti Vandan Yojana* of the Bharatiya Janata Party has gained momentum on the sidelines. The *Lakshmir Bhandar* has been a time-tested model for the Trinamool and its announcement helped the party outperform a resurgent BJP in the 2021 Assembly election. Its implementation was also credited with the party's 2024 Lok Sabha election win. The number of beneficiaries of the scheme, which provides ₹1,500 per month for women in the General categories and ₹1,700 for women from Scheduled categories, has reached 2.42 crore.

The BJP, in its manifesto, has offered to double the cash incentive to ₹3,000 a month under the *Matri Shakti Vandan Yojana*. In an attempt to assure the electorate that the party will deliver on its promise, the BJP leaders have started filling up forms of women who are eligible for benefits under the scheme. The Trinamool has opposed the filling of forms and in areas such as Sonarpur in South 24 Parganas district, clashes had erupted between Trinamool and BJP supporters.

On Thursday, the Trinamool filed complaints with the State's Chief Electoral Officer against multiple BJP leaders, including candidates Arjun Singh and Rajesh Mahato, for distributing the *Matri Shakti Vandan* forms. The complaint to the CEO has accused BJP leaders of violating the Model Code of Conduct that came into force after the election was announced.

Young women voters click a selfie at a photo booth during an electoral awareness programme in Kolkata. ANI

"On 15.04.2026, leaders/members of BJP from 94-Bagda (SC) Assembly Constituency were seen distributing registration forms of a scheme named and styled as "Matrishakti Bhorsa Card". The scheme promises financial assistance of ₹3,000/- per month, to women. In the process of registration, BJP is collecting voter information which will give them undue advantage and skew the level playing field for other political parties," the Trinamool said in its complaint.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee who held an election meeting at Mathabhanga in Cooch Behar urged the electorate not to believe in the promises of the BJP.

"Do not give them your bank account numbers and other details. Instead of giving money, they will run away with whatever is left in your account," Ms. Banerjee told the crowd.

The Trinamool chairperson said she had announced the scheme ahead of the 2021 election promising only ₹500 for every woman. Ms. Banerjee slammed Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for distributing the forms of the BJP cash incentive scheme for women. "The Union Finance Minister is shameless. She is distributing cards now. Why can't they take lessons from us? We execute our promises before the election. *Lakshmir Bhandar* started in 2021," Ms. Banerjee said.

The Chief Minister also highlighted the National Democratic Alliance's victory in the Bihar Assembly election late last year, when ₹10,000 was deposited in accounts of women under an entrepreneur support scheme ahead of the polls.

"In Bihar, money was given to women by the BJP before the election. It was said that the money was given to assist them in doing business. But after the election, they came back riding on their bulldozers. Now they are asking for the money back. In Delhi, did they give ₹2,500 to women?" she said.

West Bengal BJP president Samik Bhattacharya said there was nothing wrong in distribution of forms and the Trinamool itself had indulged in the practice in the past.

"We were never against *Lakshmir Bhandar*, we said that if the State government has to offer money to women it should offer with a bigger heart. We are promising ₹3,000 to every woman which will be credited in the first week of every month," Mr. Bhattacharya said.

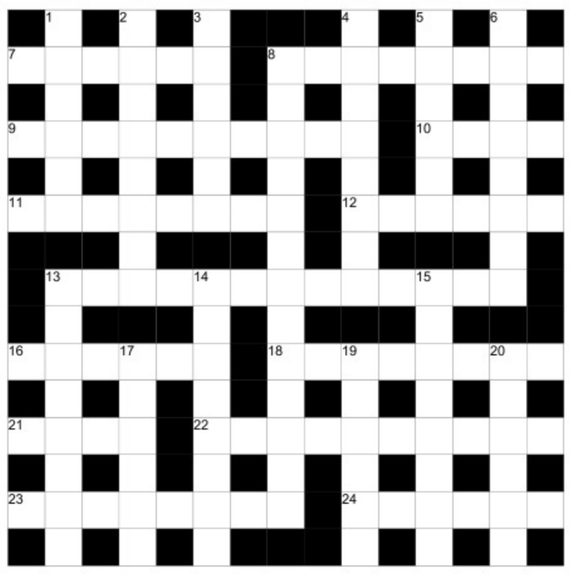
As the war of words rages between the Trinamool and the BJP over whether the *Lakshmir Bhandar* or the *Matri Shakti Vandan* is superior, it remains to be seen how the more than three crore women voters of the State exercise their franchise when they hit polling booths.

## TH CROSSWORD + 14771

(set by Saral)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://thehindu.com/crosswords*

SCAN TO PLAY



**ACROSS**

7. Repeat part of flamenco recording (6)
8. Engineers responsible for sure (8)
9. Spooner says playing with kitty in space for vehicle (7,3)
10. Unfortunately missing grand parties (4)
11. I held capital? (3,5)
12. Slippery creature back near passage in room (6)
13. Study government quotas including say, groups (13)
16. A magistrate initially probing a big agitation in country (6)
18. Check article about corrupt leader of Tories with Liberal (8)
21. Song of Hungarians (4)
22. The same model worker gets a rise? (10)
23. Mother's catching large fat ducks (8)
24. Fixed cool temporary shelter (6)

**DOWN**

1. Attack girl forcing out Republican in anger (6)
2. Watched professor tipping abandoned koel egg (6,2)
3. Officer picked up substance (6)
4. Throwing pellet at bloody thing (8)
5. Coat often hid by pale window dressing (6)
6. Reference books of a student, graduate against screening rejected (8)
8. Notes for musical group? (7,6)
13. Presiding officer from Switzerland with pilot (8)
14. French leaving type of telescopes in nuclear facilities (8)
15. Remote settlements one under the protection of soldiers primarily near borders of Texas (8)
17. Fights and roars clasping fighter finally (6)
19. Crew member in endless argument with angry aide (6)
20. Stripes across new materials (6)

## SUDOKU

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

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**Solution to previous puzzle**

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| H | O | N | E | S | T | ■ | M | E |
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| C | U | P | I | D | I | T | Y | ■ |
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| E | A | R | N | E | D | ■ | M | A |
| R | ■ | I | ■ | D | ■ | D | ■ | L |
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**Solution to yesterday's Sudoku**

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| 4 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 6 |
| 6 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 1 |
| 3 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 1 | 5 |
| 2 | 6 | 9 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 3 |
| 8 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 7 | 2 |
| 1 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 4 |
| 7 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 9 |
| 9 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 8 |

## FAITH

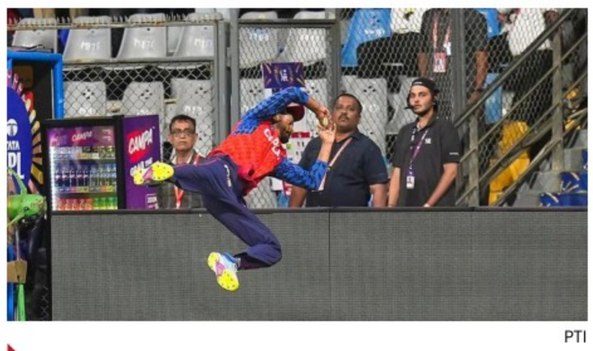
### Lord Shiva, the healer

Vaideeswaran Kovil in Tamil Nadu is famous for its deity, its sacred water, and for the sacredness of the town itself. The name of Lord Shiva here is Vaidyanathaswami. The Goddess here is known as Thaiyalnayaki. In Thevaram, this place is referred to as Pullirukkuvelur (*pul+ruk+vel+oor*), said T. Rajarathinam in a discourse. *Pul* means bird. Here it is a reference to birds like Jatayu and Sampati. *Ruk* refers to Rg Vedam. *Vel* is a reference to Lord Muruga. *Oor* means place. Because the Rg Veda, the birds Jatayu and Sampati and Lord Muruga worshipped Shiva here, the place is known as Pullirukkuvelur. Appar says the sins of those who worship in Pullirukkuvelur will be destroyed. Thirugnanasambandar says Jatayu and Sampati worshipped here.

Lord Shiva here is believed to be One who heals. Angaraka (Mars) worshipped Shiva here. Sage Dhanvantri departed from the world at this place. Kamadhenu did an abhisheka with milk for the deity here. The name of Murugan in this temple is Muthukumaraswami. Kumaraguruparar has sung Muthukumaraswami Pillai Tamizh, in praise of the Murugan of Vaideeswaran temple. Kumaraguruparar says that because the Sun (*pariti* in Tamil) is worshipped in this temple, the town is called Paritipuri. He also gives other names by which the place is known, like Kandapuri, Vedapuri etc. He offers salutations to Vaidyanathaswami too, when he says '*Velur Vaidyanathanai potrudhum*.' Vaidyanathaswami is worshipped for relief from illnesses. Appar refers to Vaidyanathaswami as the One who can cure incurable diseases. Symbolically, the disease that Shiva cures is the affliction known as samsara.

SPECTACULAR EFFORT

## Tendulkar terms Shreyas' relay catch 'one of the best'



PTI

Shreyas Iyer had to judge the speed of the ball, the height, where the boundary was, and get his jump absolutely perfect. Then, while still in the air, he caught the ball and released it to a teammate (Xavier Bartlett) before landing. One of the best catches I've ever seen — Sachin Tendulkar on Shreyas' effort to dismiss Hardik Pandya.

FOR A CAUSE

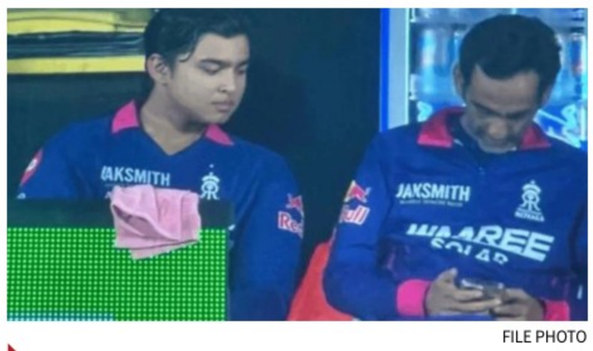
## Royal Challengers to don green jerseys in the Capitals clash

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

As part of a 'Green Initiative', Royal Challengers Bengaluru will don green jerseys when it takes on Delhi Capitals at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru on Saturday. Made from recycled materials, the jerseys are part of the franchise's commitment to sustainability.

A WARNING

## BCCI fines RR manager Bhinder ₹1 lakh for anti-corruption breach



FILE PHOTO

BCCI has fined RR team manager Romi Bhinder ₹1 lakh for an anti-corruption breach of using his phone in the dugout, besides issuing a warning following an unsatisfactory response to the board's showcause notice, its secretary Devajit Saikia said on Friday. The breach occurred during the RR-RCB match on April 10.

TAKING THE LEAD

## Wolvaardt, Dercksen and Khaka shine in South Africa's facile win

X/@PROTEASWOMENCSA

South Africa scored a six-wicket win over India in the first T20I in Durban on Friday. Laura Wolvaardt and Annerie Dercksen led the chase. **The scores:** India 157/7 in 20 overs (Shafali 34, Jemimah 36, Harmanpreet 47 n.o., Khaka 3/16, Sekhukhune 2/27) lost to SA 158/4 in 19.1 overs (Wolvaardt 51, Dercksen 44 n.o., Shreyanka 2/26).

# Gill leads from the front as the Titans complete a hat-trick of victories

The opener's 50-ball 86 sets up the chase after the pacers led by Rabada bowl out Knight Riders for 180; Green's knock the lone bright spot

IPL-19

**Amol Karhadkar**
AHMEDABAD

Shubman Gill, the captain, rotated his pace battery astutely and the quartet responded by tightening the noose around the Kolkata Knight Riders batters at the start and end of the innings. And Gill, the batter, was at his best, setting up Gujarat Titans' five-wicket win against a beleaguered opponent in IPL 2026 at the Narendra Modi Stadium on Friday.

Gill not only notched up a hat-trick of fifties, but also ensured Titans completed a hat-trick of victories to jump to fourth spot.

Chasing 181 – a competitive but far from imposing target given KKR's depleted pace resources and Varun Chakaravarthy's dip in form – Titans were never under real pressure. Gill's knock, laced with textbook precision and effortless timing, meant the chase was always under control.

The tone was set early. Gill's cover drive off Vaibhav Arora in the opening over was a hint of what was to follow. While he unfurled strokes all around the ground, Sai Sudharsan took on Anukul Roy with a pair of sixes in the third over. Even after the southpaw fell to Sunil Narine's offspin, Jos Buttler ensured the PowerPlay ended on a brisk note, scoring 14 off the final five deliveries.

**Stars of the show:** Gill notched up his third straight fifty after Rabada claimed a three-for. VIJAY SONEJI

From there, Gill took charge, never allowing KKR to claw its way back.

There was a brief moment when Gill looked set to finish the game in style and perhaps even push towards a fifth IPL hundred. But Cameron Green's acrobatic effort running in from deep third cut short his stay. By then, however, the job was all but done. Rahul Tewatia and Shahrukh Khan took Titans home with two balls to spare after Glenn Phillips departed with just four needed.

Earlier, Kagiso Rabada and Mohammed Siraj laid the foundation for the win. They struck thrice in the PowerPlay to reduce KKR to 37 for three.

Even as Green and Rovman Powell mounted a counterattack in the middle overs, the GT bowlers bounced back in the death overs.

Knight Riders managed just 32 runs for the loss of five wickets in the last five overs, a collapse that ensured Green's first substantial contribution of the season did little to alter the outcome.

**SCOREBOARD**

**KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS**
Tim Seifert c Phillips b Rabada 19 *(14b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Ajinkya Rahane c Rabada b Siraj 0 *(1b)*, Angkrish Raghuvanshi c Buttler b Rabada 8 *(4b, 2x4)*, Cameron Green c Buttler b Rashid 79 *(55b, 7x4, 4x6)*, Rovman Powell c Siraj b Ashok 27 *(20b, 2x4, 2x6)*, Anukul Roy c Buttler b Prasidh 9 *(7b, 1x4)*, Rinku Singh c Buttler b Rabada 1 *(2b)*, Ramandeep Singh c Siraj b Ashok 17 *(8b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Sunil Narine c Phillips b Siraj 0 *(5b)*, Kartik Tyagi run out 6 *(4b, 1x6)*, Vaibhav Arora (not out) 0 *(1b)*; Extras (b-4, lb-3, nb-1, w-6): 14; Total (in 20 overs): 180.

**FALL OF WICKETS**
1-5 (Rahane, 0.4 overs), 2-21 (Raghuvanshi, 1.6), 3-32 (Seifert, 3.6), 4-87 (Powell, 10.6), 5-147 (Anukul, 14.5), 6-148 (Rinku, 15.1), 7-165 (Ramandeep, 16.3), 8-166 (Narine, 17.3), 9-173 (Tyagi, 18.2).

**TITANS BOWLING**
Siraj 4-0-23-2, Rabada 4-0-29-3, Prasidh 4-0-32-1, Ashok 4-0-45-2, Rashid 4-0-44-1.

**GUJARAT TITANS**
Sai Sudharsan c Tyagi b Narine 22 *(16b, 1x4, 2x6)*, Shubman Gill c Green b Vaibhav 86 *(50b, 8x4, 4x6)*, Jos Buttler c Green b Varun 25 *(15b, 2x4, 2x6)*, Washington Sundar c Tyagi b Varun 13 *(13b, 1x4)*, Glenn Phillips c Rinku b Ramandeep 19 *(16b, 2x4)*, Rahul Tewatia (not out) 7 *(6b)*, Shahrukh Khan **(Impact Player for Prasidh)** (not out) 3 *(2b)*; Extras (lb-2, w-4): 6; Total (for five wkts. in 19.4 overs): 181.

**FALL OF WICKETS**
1-57 (Sai Sudharsan, 5.1), 2-95 (Buttler, 9.1), 3-141 (Washington, 14.3), 4-158 (Gill, 16.6), 5-177 (Phillips, 19.1).

**KNIGHT RIDERS BOWLING**
Vaibhav 4-0-35-1, Tyagi 4-0-40-0, Anukul 3-0-37-0, Narine 4-0-28-1, Varun **(Impact Player for Raghuvanshi)** 4-0-34-2, Ramandeep 0.4-0-5-1.

**Toss:** KKR; **PoM:** Gill.
*Titans won by five wickets with two balls to spare.*

### Next assignment

**KKR:** April 19 vs. RR Kolkata, 3.30 p.m.

**GT:** April 20 vs. MI Ahmedabad, 7.30 p.m.

**In or not?** Dhoni's presence in training has fuelled speculation that he will figure in the game against Sunrisers. NAGARA GOPAL

## Buoyant SRH runs into a resurgent CSK

**Anirudh Velamuri**
HYDERABAD

Sunrisers Hyderabad's clash with Chennai Super Kings at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium on Saturday is more than just another league fixture – it feels like a turning point waiting to unfold.

Both teams are seeking to turn promise into something more permanent. It's a meeting that could change the shape of both campaigns.

SRH comes into this contest buoyed by a statement win over Rajasthan Royals thanks to a bowling unit which included young quicks Praful Hinge and Sakib Hussain. The pair brought both control and speed with the new ball and also mixed it up with variations in the middle and at the death.

It finally balanced the scales, lopsided for long, thanks to an aggressive batting order doing all the heavy lifting, relieved that some semblance of balance has finally arrived.

A compelling subplot, therefore, will be how Praful and Sakib fare against CSK's middle-order, particularly if they can force them to face the new ball. That said, the five-time champion's batting arsenal is good enough to shift gears quickly and recover even if early wickets fall.

CSK has hit a patch of form courtesy two successive wins at home. It heads into Saturday's encounter eyeing a first victory on the road this season, but with a depleted bowling attack. Its pace resources have taken a hit with Khaleel Ahmed out for the season with a quadriceps injury while Nathan Ellis was ruled out earlier.

Historically, CSK has dominated this fixture 15-7, but the home side's recent returns, particularly with the ball, allow a far more evenly poised contest this time around. In a clash where both sides carry firepower and flaws in equal measure, one passage of play, one moment of control, or one burst of brilliance could be enough to tilt the balance decisively.

## RCB takes on DC, looks to make it three wins in a row

**Ashwin Achal**
BENGALURU

Royal Challengers Bengaluru, oftentimes slow starters, has shot off the blocks this time around. With four wins in five outings, RCB has laid claim to early favourites to grab the IPL 2026 title.

On Saturday, Delhi Capitals, which has lost two on the trot, faces the arduous task of stopping RCB's run.

DC will look to Karnataka's own, K.L. Rahul, to show the way. Rahul has deflated RCB at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium once before, with a match-winning unbeaten 93 here last year.

Rahul, opening partner Pathum Nissanka, David Miller and the visiting batters will have to contend with a well-oiled RCB bowling unit.

Lucknow Super Giants had no answers in the previous fixture here, crumbling for 146.

While Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Josh Hazlewood and Krunal Pandya have proved their worth time and again, RCB has found a new jewel in pacer Rasikh Salam, who picked up four wickets on Wednesday.

**High impact:** Kohli will look to put his best foot forward as always. K. MURALI KUMAR

On the batting front, RCB's leading run-scorer Virat Kohli is expected to feature as an impact player once again. Kohli, who injured his ankle, is unlikely to risk fielding duties.

The DC bowlers, who have conceded scores in excess of 200 in the last two games, will find it hard to contain a marauding RCB line-up of Kohli, Rajat Patidar, Jitesh Sharma and Tim David.

DC head coach Hemang Badani is optimistic that a turnaround in fortunes is just around the corner. "We lost a close game," Badani said, referring to his side's one-run loss to Gujarat Titans last week. "But in the last match, at Chepauk, we at least got 180 to 190. It is a question of one of our batters coming good, and we will be okay."

## SRH all for making tactical tweaks: Vettori

**Anirudh Velamuri**
HYDERABAD

Praful Hinge and Sakib Hussain announced themselves in emphatic fashion on their Sunrisers Hyderabad debuts, picking up four wickets each against Rajasthan Royals and easing long-standing concerns around the team's bowling.

Together, they provided the sharpness with the ball that Sunrisers had long been searching for.

Head coach Daniel Vettori, while encouraged by the performance, suggested that adjustments could still be made based on conditions. "We're playing on the same pitch as the last game. We're anticipating it to be slightly different, and that means we may have to make some tactical changes," he said.

Vettori downplayed concerns over the returns of openers Travis Head and Abhishek Sharma. "Every opening partnership aims to be ultra-aggressive, but it's unrealistic to expect that to come off every time.

"We want to stick with that approach because when those two fire, we usually win," he said.

Vettori also confirmed that Pat Cummins could make his first appearance of the season against Rajasthan Royals on April 25.

### Points table

| | M | W | L | NR | PTS | NRR |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Punjab Kings | 5 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 9 | 1.067 |
| Royal Challengers | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 1.503 |
| Rajasthan Royals | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 0.889 |
| Gujarat Titans | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 0.018 |
| Sunrisers Hyderabad | 5 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 0.576 |
| Delhi Capitals | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 0.322 |
| Lucknow Super Giants | 5 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 4 | -0.804 |
| Chennai Super Kings | 5 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 4 | -0.846 |
| Mumbai Indians | 5 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 2 | -1.076 |
| Kolkata Knight Riders | 6 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 1 | -1.149 |

## Fleming not planning to shuffle the CSK top-order

**Anirudh Velamuri**
HYDERABAD

Chennai Super Kings skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad has endured a difficult start to the IPL season, managing just 63 runs and averaging 12.60 with three single-digit scores in five outings.

His partner Sanju Samson suffered similar returns before a sublime unbeaten century at Chepauk turned the tide.

Ayush Mhatre at No. 3, meanwhile, has effortlessly accumulated 171 runs, including two half-centuries, at an average of 34.20, striking at 170 in the PowerPlay. The youngster had successfully stepped into an injured Ruturaj's shoes last season.

That, coupled with Ruturaj's dwindling returns, has fanned the whispers calling for a reshuffle at the top for the five-time champion. But head coach Stephen Fleming remains unconvinced.

"He hasn't had the returns that he would like, but that can be the nature of T20. We've seen over the years that he's a quality player. We can cover for him for a few games before he comes into form... very rarely someone dominates the whole way."

SRH's charged-up bowling line-up will hope to make that task harder for CSK. Fleming was left impressed by Sunrisers' resilience against Rajasthan Royals.

"SRH fought back really well to give themselves a chance against RR. We'd love to have Hyderabad in that situation, but it'll take a lot of work. Their top-order is dynamic. How we deal with that will be one of the key components because they can take the game away from you very quickly."

**Suspense over Dhoni**

M.S. Dhoni's availability remains a mystery, with a tight-lipped Fleming saying he is "happy with Dhoni's recovery."

Nitish Kumar. NAGARA GOPAL

### Today's matches

RCB vs DELHI CAPITALS
**Bengaluru,** 3.30 p.m.
HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 33
RCB 20 | DC 12 | NR 1
PREVIOUS MEETING
RCB won by six wickets, 2025

SUNRISERS vs CHENNAI SUPER KINGS
**Hyderabad,** 7.30 p.m.
HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 22
SRH 7 | CSK 15
PREVIOUS MEETING
SRH won by five wickets, 2025

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1, 2 & JIOHOTSTAR

# Discussions with Anand and Pragg helped at Candidates, says Vaishali

The 24-year-old became the first Indian woman to win the prestigious tournament and thus qualified for the World title match against Ju of China later this year; a superb victory in her final-round game against Lagno ensured her the crown

CHESS

**P.K. Ajith Kumar**

There is a certain calmness about R. Vaishali. That is evident in her voice, coming through clearly over the phone, from Cyprus, some more than 5,000 kms away.

You could also sense some joy in her voice. You would understand if she chose to scream with delight: after all, she became the first Indian to win the Women's Candidates chess tournament just a couple of days ago and thus qualified for the World title match against Ju Wenjun of China.

Vaishali, though, is as collected as ever as she talks about the greatest moment of her career. "Winning the Candidates means a lot to me, as it has been my dream to win the World championship since I was a little girl," she told *The Hindu*.

**Historic achievement:** Vaishali produced the greatest moment of her career by coming up trumps in Cyprus. FIDE

"When Viswanathan Anand was given a reception in 2012, after he won the World championship, I was one of the kids sent to the Chennai airport by my school, Velammal. That reception was inspiring."

She was 11 then. And Anand was there in Cyprus to congratulate her in person. He is her mentor now. She is being trained and sponsored by WestBridge Anand Chess Academy (WACA), which the five-time World champion founded along with Sandeep Singhal.

"Even before the Candidates, I had discussions with Anand, and the suggestions he made proved useful for my games," said Vaishali.

"And yes, I have been discussing chess with my younger brother Praggnanadhaa (who played in the open section of the Candidates). We even discussed what openings I should play for my last two rounds."

It was a superb victory in her final-round game against Kateryna Lagno that gave Vaishali the title. "I was very happy to see some Sicilian (Defence) on the board," she smiles. "I didn't expect her to play this Dragon variation specifically that day. But I had prepared it, of course, before the tournament. Since she had some chances if she won, she was provoked to play that aggressive line."

But Vaishali didn't give her a chance and dominated the game.

"I am quite happy with that game, and also with the ones against Divya Deshmukh, and Aleksandra Goryachkina," she said.

"I wasn't pleased with the way I began, however – four draws and then a loss in the fifth round. But after that, I bounced back with successive victories. Yes, it has been a pattern for me: I tend to hit my peak after a low. Here I wasn't bothered about the standings in the early stage as I knew I could come back later. But what worried me was about the way I played: I was defending in every game. So I decided to focus on the quality of my games."

That certainly helped.

# Hazlewood backs his classical approach

IPL-19

**Ashwin Achal**
BENGALURU

In a format which places high value on variations and innovations, Josh Hazlewood has stuck to the tried and trusted.

The Royal Challengers Bengaluru fast bowler revels in honing in on a hard length, making it tough for batters to get under and slog. This classical approach has worked well not just in the two IPL 2026 matches he has played thus far, but also in the previous season.

Now back to full fitness, the Australia pacer is a natural fit as the leader of the RCB attack.

"We see different bowlers in our group have different styles, so I try to copy a different ball here and there. But at the same time, you first and foremost rely on your strengths.

"Obviously, my strength is hitting the length and hitting it hard. It's not about floating the ball up, it's not about digging it in. It is about making it hard for the batter to hit me off that length," Hazlewood said on the eve of RCB's game against Delhi Capitals.

**Lynchpin:** A fit-and-raring Hazlewood has elevated the RCB attack. K. MURALI KUMAR

The 35-year-old is doubly dangerous if the pitch is not a batting beauty, as seen in RCB's fixture against Lucknow Super Giants here on Wednesday.

"The other night, the pitch actually helped a little bit. It was hard to time the ball; the pitch was a bit up and down.

"If you're on a nice glassy pitch and everything's coming onto the bat nicely, then things have to change and you try a few different things," Hazlewood explained.

## INBRIEF

### Saudi Arabia sacks Renard as coach ahead of World Cup

Frenchman Herve Renard said on Friday he has been relieved of his duties as Saudi Arabia coach, less than two months before the start of the FIFA World Cup. "That's football... Saudi Arabia has qualified for the World Cup seven times, including twice with me," Renard said over telephone.

### Om Semwal beats fifth seed Elshafei, enters last eight

India's Om Semwal beat Egyptian fifth seed Taha Elshafei 11-8, 11-9, 8-11, 11-4 in the second round to enter the men's quarterfinals of the HCL Squash PSA Challenger Tour at the Indian Squash Academy in Chennai on Friday.

### Kiwis get the better of Bangladesh in the first ODI

New Zealand pacers guided the side to a 26-run victory over Bangladesh in the opening game of the three-match ODI series in Mirpur on Friday.

**The scores:** New Zealand 247/8 in 50 overs (Nicholls 68, Foxcroft 59, Taskin 2/50, Shoriful 2/27, Rishad 2/44) bt Bangladesh 221 in 48.3 overs (Saif 57, Litton 46, Hridoy 55, Nathan 3/45, Tickner 4/40); **Toss:** NZ; **PoM:** Foxcroft.

### Bengaluru Turf Club gets reprieve with de-notification

**BENGALURU:** There was good news for the Bengaluru Turf Club, which was the epicentre of the outbreak of Glanders, a contagious disease in equines.As per clause-5 of the National Action Plan for Control and Eradication of Glanders in India, the area which had been declared as "notified area' has been de-notified and the restriction imposed on the movement of equines, donkeys and mules in and out of the notified area is withdrawn with immediate effect.
The surveillance was done according to clause 4.4 and 4.6 of the National Action Plan and samples were found negative.

LIVE TELECAST

**IPL:** Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 3.30 & 7.30 p.m.
**IFL:** Sony Sports Ten 5 & LIV, 4 & 6.30 p.m.
**ISL:** Sony Sports Ten 2 & FanCode, 5 & 7.30 p.m.
**Premier League:** SS Select 1 & JioHotstar, 5, 7.30 & 10 p.m.
**Serie A:** DAZN, 6.30, 9.30 p.m. & 12.15 a.m. (Sunday)
**Bundesliga:** Sony Sports Ten 1, 2 & LIV, 7 & 10 p.m.

# Inaugural Boulders Classic goes to Shubhankar

GOLF

**Anirudh Velamuri**
HYDERABAD

Shubhankar Sharma fired a five-under 67 to secure his seventh DP World PGTI title at the inaugural Boulders Classic on Friday.

Having started his final round with a seven-shot cushion at 20-under, he closed with a five-under 67, featuring six birdies and a lone bogey, to take home the trophy and ₹15 lakh in prize money.

The 29-year-old was in commanding form all week, finishing at a record 25-under 263, a dominant eight shots clear of the field. His total also set a new benchmark for the lowest aggregate score in PGTI history.

The victory ended a long wait for Shubhankar. It is his first win on the tour since the McLeod Russel Tour Championship in Kolkata in December 2017. It is also his first professional title worldwide in over eight years, his last coming at the Maybank Championship in February 2018.

His 25-under total surpassed the previous record of 24-under 264, jointly held by Anirban Lahiri (2010), Rashid Khan (2019), Akshay Sharma (2020), and Manu Gandas (2022).

Rashid, Angad Cheema, and local lad Mohd. Azhar finished tied for second at 17-under 271, eight strokes adrift of Shubhankar. Khalin Joshi, who triumphed in Visakhapatnam last week, finished tied 12th (10-under 278) with Saptak Talwar, the current PGTI Order of Merit leader.

**Stellar show:** Shubhankar (25-under 263) set a new benchmark for the lowest aggregate score in PGTI history. NAGARA GOPAL

# Winning on home soil is special, says Shubhankar

**Anirudh Velamuri**
HYDERABAD

Shubhankar Sharma's agonising eight-year wait for a title ended after a commanding victory at the Boulders Classic. As the winning putt settled the contest, he allowed himself a pause before being engulfed in celebrations.

His friends rushed to the course to soak in a cherished triumph, one that was cathartic and familiar in equal measure.

"It was nice to walk down the 18th (hole) knowing that I had done it after hitting my tee shot. There were many great shots, but my favourite moment was on the 18th, because that's not happened in a long time," Shubhankar told *The Hindu*.

The 29-year-old, who has battled form and equipment challenges in recent times, said winning on home soil made the moment even more meaningful.

**Ending a drought:** Shubhankar won after eight years. NAGARA GOPAL

"I've come very close over the years. This is special because all my friends are here. It's probably tough to recreate this if I play in Europe," he said.

Shubhankar also reflected on the growth of the sport in India. "The skill level has gone up. Also, the PGTI prize money is a lot more than what it used to be. ₹30 lakh was the smallest amount back when I used to play here. Now, it's one crore! There are only good things for this sport in the future."

After lifting the winner's trophy, he encouraged young golfers to aim higher and test themselves on bigger stages. "Don't settle for mediocrity. Don't settle on just winning a tournament. Set higher bars, invest in yourself. Go abroad, don't get comfortable here. Use the platform that PGTI provides to get on the main European tour. Go abroad when there are no tournaments here, don't save money and sit at home."

# Farukh's strike seals CFC's first home victory of the season

ISL

**S. Shrivathsan**
CHENNAI

The wait finally ended on Friday. After three unsuccessful attempts (one draw and two defeats), Chennaiyin FC tasted victory at home for the first time in the Indian Super League 2025-26 season, defeating SC Delhi 1-0 here.

At the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Farukh Choudhary's razor-sharp strike in the 11th minute was enough to separate the teams.

The triumph was Chennaiyin's (eight points from as many matches) first since the away win over Kerala Blasters FC on March 7, while Delhi's (eight points from as many games) unbeaten streak was halted at four matches.

At the beginning of the contest, CFC did just what the doctor – head coach Clifford Miranda in this case – ordered with a dream start.

Receiving the pass laid to him by Alberto Noguera and making a foray into the box from the left, Farukh shot with his left foot from an extremely tight angle but managed to locate the top-right corner of the net.

**Game-changer:** Farukh, right, guided CFC to its second win. R. RAGU

Delhi goalkeeper Nora Fernandes, who did not expect the unexpected from the Indian forward, could only admire the ball go past him.

In the closing stages of the clash, the visitor came within inches of spoiling Chennaiyin's mood as substitute Sourav's strike went just wide of the far post.

In an otherwise disappointing evening for Delhi, Alex Saji stood tall – he denied Daniel Chima Chukwu with an impressive sliding block in the first half and later stopped Farukh's lively run.

When the referee blew the final whistle, the CFC players and staff breathed a sigh of relief.

**The results:** Chennaiyin FC 1 (Farukh Choudhary 11) bt SC Delhi 0.

**At Bhubaneswar:** Odisha FC 1 (Suhair 40) drew with Mohammedan SC 1 (Adison 57).

## Chotrani advances to quarterfinals

**Sports Bureau**

Veer Chotrani continued his strong run at the Hamburg Open, a PSA Bronze-level event, storming into the quarterfinals with an 11-8, 11-7, 11-7 win over Germany's eighth seed Raphael Kandra in the second round on Thursday.

Fifth seed Abhay Singh bowed out after a 9-11, 11-7, 4-11, 2-11 defeat to England's Sam Todd. Seventh seed Ramit Tandon went down to Hungary's Balazs Farkas. In the women's draw, former World No. 10 Joshna Chinappa was knocked out by New Zealand's eighth seed Joelle King.

**The results (second round):**
**Men:** Veer Chotrani bt Raphael Kandra 11-8, 11-7, 11-7; Sam Todd bt Abhay Singh 11-9, 7-11, 11-4, 11-2; Balazs Farkas bt Ramit Tandon 12-10, 4-11, 11-5, 11-9.
**Women:** Joelle King bt Joshna Chinappa 11-9, 11-7, 9-11, 11-4.

**Stepping in:** Priya and Shruti will now be tasked with doubles duty for India. FILE PHOTO: SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

# Shruti and Priya in for Treesa and Gayatri

UBER CUP FINALS

**Press Trust of India**
NEW DELHI

The Indian women's doubles pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand has withdrawn from the upcoming Uber Cup Finals after the former sustained an ankle injury, dealing a blow to India's campaign in Denmark.

The Badminton Association of India has named Shruti Mishra and Priya Konjengbam as replacements. Shruti and Priya are ranked 48th in the world.

India will compete in the Thomas and Uber Cup Finals to be held in Horsens from April 24 to May 3. Meanwhile, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, who had played a pivotal role in India's 2022 victory, will travel early to Denmark to train ahead of the Thomas Cup Finals.

## KARNATAKA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

Parisara Bhavana, No.49, Church Street, Bangalore-560001
Phone : 080-25581383, Fax : 080-25586321

No. PCB/01/BLD/2026-27/146 Dated:15/04/2026

### INVITATION FOR TENDER - CALL-1

(Through GOK e-procurement platform http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)

The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) invites tenders from eligible tenderers through GOK e-procurement platform http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in by The Member Secretary for the following work:

**Name of the work:** Construction of platform for installation of KSPCB CAAQM Station with Integrated Noise Monitoring Terminal (INMT) at Hospete, Vijayanagara District. **Approx Value of the work:** Rs.8.24 lakhs. All payments such as tender cost, EMD etc., shall be made in e-payment mode only.

For more details, please refer e-procurement website: http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in,

Sd/-
DIPR/CP/234/AKAR/2026-27 CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER-2

**Our motto is to minimize waste generation through judicious use of natural resources**

## KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No. CEE/Tr(OP)Z/KLB/SEE(O)/AEE-5/2026-27/558 Date:17.04.2026

### TENDER NOTIFICATION (e-Procurement mode only)

KPTCL invites tenders from the eligible bidders for the following bid enquiry **No.: KPTCL/2026-27/SS/Replacement of Manna-E-Khelli Transformer** for Replacement of 2X10MVA, 110/11kV power transformer by 2X20MVA, 110/11kV power transformer at 110kV **Manna-E-Khelli** sub-station in Chitaguppa Tq, Bidar District on Partial Turnkey Basis, including Supply of all Materials/Equipments (Excluding supply 20 MVA power transformer) and Erection (including dismantling & Civil Works) of all Materials/ Equipments, Testing and Commissioning. The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging **on or after 18.04.2026** to **www.kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyper Link **'E Procurement KPTCL'** or to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

**Sd/- Chief Engineer (Ele), Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, 1st Floor, Prasarana Bhavan, Sedam Road, Kalaburagi-585 105.**

## KARNATAKA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

#49, "Parisara Bhavan", 1st to 5th Floor, Church Street, Bengaluru-560001, Karnataka,
Phone: 25581383, 25589112, 25586520, Fax: 080-25586321
E-mail: ho@kspcb.gov.in, Website: https://kspcb.karnataka.gov.in

No. PCB 280 INFRA EPH 2025/169 DATE:16.04.2026

### ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING NOTIFICATION

Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board has proposed for establishment of Knowledge, Wellbeing and Innovative City (KWIN CITY) of Phase -3 in an area of 1,051.01 Acres (425.33 Ha) at Survey Number 1 to 8 of J.I. Agrahara, 12, 14 to 49, 66 to 72 of Tharabanahalli, and 139, 145 to 160, 163 to 166, 168 to 183, 232 to 252, 262 to 293, 295 to 306 of Hulikunte Villages, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. The Project requires obtaining Environmental Clearance as per EIA Notification dated 14.09.2006, and it is required to conduct Environmental Public Hearing process. Accordingly, the Project Proponent has obtained Terms of Reference (ToR) issued by the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority -Karnataka dated 28.01.2026 vide File No. SEIAA 29 IND 2025, proposal No. SIA/KA/INFRA1/558538/2025 dated: 27.11.2025 and TOR Identification No. TO25B3102KA5683816N. As per project proponent request letter No. KIADB/EE-3/3050/2025-26, dated: 03.02.2026 & RO -Doddaballapura letter No. PCB/RO-Doddaballapura/EPH/2025-26/1258, dated: 27.03.2026 & the Environmental Public hearing is scheduled by the Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru Rural District on **20th May 2026 Wednesday at 11.00 AM.** The Environmental Public Hearing is being conducted by the Board as per details given below;

**1. Name of the Company & Address :** Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board, Zonal Office, Bengaluru, #14/3, 1st Floor, Maharshi Arvinda Bhavana, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru-560001.

**2. Proposed location of the project :** Establishment of Knowledge, Wellbeing and Innovative City (KWIN CITY) of Phase -3 in an area of 1,051.01 Acres (425.33 Ha) at Survey Number 1 to 8 of J.I. Agrahara, 12, 14 to 49, 66 to 72 of Tharabanahalli, and 139, 145 to 160, 163 to 166, 168 to 183, 232 to 252, 262 to 293, 295 to 306 of Hulikunte Villages, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

**3. Details of activity :** Establishment of Knowledge, Wellbeing and Innovative City (KWIN CITY) of Phase -3 in an area of 1,051.01 Acres (425.33 Ha) at Survey Number 1 to 8 of J.I. Agrahara, 12, 14 to 49, 66 to 72 of Tharabanahalli, and 139, 145 to 160, 163 to 166, 168 to 183, 232 to 252, 262 to 293, 295 to 306 of Hulikunte Villages, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

**4. Date, time and venue of Public hearing : Date: 20th May 2026 (Wednesday), Time: 11.00 AM, Place: Proposed project site at Sy. No. 8, J.I. Agrahara Village, Doddabelavangala Hobli, Doddaballura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.**

**5. Capital Investment :** Rs. 2263.38 Cr. (Project cost)

**6. Places of availability of project documents kept open for public : (a)** Office of the Deputy Commissioner, DC Office complex, Beerasandra Village, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. **(b)** Office of the Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Panchayat, DC Office complex, Beerasandra Village, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. **(c)** District Industries Centre, DC Office complex, Beerasandra Village, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. **(d)** Office of Tahasildar, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. **(e)** Grama Panchayath Office, Hullikunte Gram panchayath, Hullikunte Village, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. **(f)** Office of the Senior Environmental Officer- Bengaluru North, Urban Eco Park, 1st floor, 100 feet road, 3rd Phase, Peenya Industrial Area, Bengaluru-560058. **(g)** Office of the Regional Officer, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Regional Office -Doddaballapura, T.B Circle, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. **(h)** Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change, South Zone Office, E-3/240, Kendriya Sadan, 4th Floor, E&F Wings, 17th Main Road, 2nd Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru – 560 034. **(I)** State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority-Karnataka (SEIAA), 4th Gate, 7th Floor, Forest Ecology and Environmental Department, MS Building, Bengaluru -560 001. **j)** HELP DESK, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Ground Floor, No.49, Parisara Bhavan, Church Street, Bengaluru – 560 001.

**NOTE:** Suggestions, views, comments and objections of interested bonafide residents, environmental groups and others located at project site who are likely to be affected by the proposed project are invited, within 30 days from the date of publication of this Notification. They can also make oral/written/E-Mail suggestions to the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board/Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee **(Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru Rural District).** Interested public can participate in the Public Hearing at the above place. **For details, please visit our website: https://kspcb.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Member Secretary

**Our motto is to minimize waste generation through judicious use of natural resources**

## ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

### BALLARI MEDICAL COLLEGE AND RESEARCH CENTRE, BALLARI.

Reg.No:205/1995-96-Recognized by Medical Council of India, New Delhi vide No:MCI-57(3)/79-Med/1912, Dtd.16-04-1979
e-mail-ids:directorbmcrcbellary@gmail.com,
website : https://vims.karnataka.gov.in

NO. BMCRC/GNL-3/Tender/2026-27Date:16-04-2026

### e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

The following works for the construction Civil Works as shown below at BMCRC, Ballari are invited under the K.T.P.P Act 1999-2000 on a two-bid system through e-procurement portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in of Government of Karnataka are invited. DME/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT73 Approx. amount Rs.165.95Lakhs, DME/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT75 Approx. amount Rs.100.09Lakhs, DME/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT76 Approx. amount Rs.165.96Lakhs & DME/2026-27/BC/WORK_INDENT74 Approx. amount Rs.107.11Lakhs, Interested bidders are request to submit their bids on date:16.04.2026 to 02.05.2026upto5.00PM inthe above portal. Further details may be obtained in the below said website and www.bmcrc.karnataka.gov.in.

**Sd/- Dean & Director, BMCRC, Ballari**

DIPR/Ballari/2026-27/KSMCA/RO No/64

## BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED

(Wholly Owned Government of Karnataka Undertaking)

### BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through KPP Portal Only))

BESCOM invites tender through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal for Procurement of following materials.

| Sl. No. | Description | Enquiry No. |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Procurement of 3x400 sqmm HTUG Cable | BESCOM/2026-27/IND0233 |
| 2 | Procurement of 3x95 + 1x70 + 1x16 sqmm LTAB Cable | BESCOM/2026-27/IND0234 |

Bid Documents available from : **21.04.2026 onwards,** Last date for Bid Submission : **21.05.2026, 17:00 Hrs.** Opening of Bid Document : **22.05.2026 at 17:15 Hrs.**

The Tender can be obtained through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal web-site **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Aspiring Bidders need to register on Karnataka Public Procurement Portal. Further Bidders can take assistance with Karnataka Public Procurement Portal help desk contact numbers (+91-8046010000 +91-8068948777, 09240214000 & 09240214001) or email at **support@eprochelpdesk.com**

Sd/-
Chief General Manager (Elec), Procurement, BESCOM, 2nd Floor, K.R. Circle, Bengaluru-560 001

For Electricity Related Complaints Call: 1912
Download BESCOM MITHRA Mobile App.

## GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

**Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department. Office of the Executive Engineer Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department Division Koppal. Phone & Fax No : 08539-220054 email: eemidnkst@rediffmail.com**

No:EE/MI&GWDD/Koppal/PB/TP/2026-27/126
Dated:13/04/2026

### INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER

The Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department Division Koppal invites tenders from the eligible tenderers registered civil contractors as per standard bid documents KW-4 on E-procurement portal for 05 no of works pertaining to Raichur district. The amount put to tender for the mentioned works varies from **Rs. 150.00 to 750.00 Lakhs** . The tenderers may submit tenders for the mentioned work through E-procurement portal only. Two cover tender procedure as per rule 28 of the KTTP act shall be followed.

For more information the contractor can contact the under signed during office hours and all information regarding tenders can be had from website Karnataka Public Procurement Portal. The tender documents can be downloaded from the above website address on or after **22-04-2026**. Last date & time for receipt of tender is **04-05-2026** time 16.00 hours, Pre bid meeting will be held on **30-04-2026** 11.00 Hours at Division office koppal. date & time for opening of technical bid **06-05-2026** time 11.00 hours, date and time for opening of financial bid **08-05-2026** time 11.00 hours (If technical bid sanction is accorded by the competent authority).

**Sd/-Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department Division Koppal.**

DIPR/Koppal/31/KSMCA/2026-27

## ದೊಡ್ಡತೋಗೂರು ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ

ಬೇಗೂರು ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ – 560 100
ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 080–22111177, e-Mail:ka.doddathoguru.tp@gmail.com
Web: www.doddathoguru.mrc.gov.in

ಸಂ.ದೊಪಪಂ/ತಾ.ಶಾ/ಟೆ.ಪ್ರ/01/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18.04.2026

### ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

(ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ದೊಡ್ಡತೋಗೂರು ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವ ದೊಡ್ಡತೋಗೂರು ಮತ್ತು ಬೆಟ್ಟದಾಸನಪುರ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 2026–27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿಯ ಸ್ವಂತ ನಿಧಿಯಡಿಯ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಗಳ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲು ಉದ್ದೇಶಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಅದರಂತೆ ಲೋಕೊಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜೆ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ ಆಸಕ್ತಿಯುಳ್ಳವರು ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆದು ಭಾಗವಹಿಸ ಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

| Sl No | Indent No. |
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| 20 | DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT56891 |

1. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ:04.05.2026ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.** 2. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06.05.2026ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ.** ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸ ಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. 3. ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳಂದು ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ರಜೆ ಘೋಷಣೆಯಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಅದರ ಮುಂದಿನ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನಾಂಕವನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿಯ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಶಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 080–22111177. ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: **ka.doddathoguru.tp@gmail.com**

ಸಹಿ/–
ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು
ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ,
ದೊಡ್ಡತೋಗೂರು.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ
ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ,
ದೊಡ್ಡತೋಗೂರು.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಾಪ್ರ/ಚಿಎ/230/2026–27

## VISVESVARAYA TRADE PROMOTION CENTRE (V.T.P.C)

(A Govt. of Karnataka Organization)
VTPC Building, Kasturba Road, Bengaluru – 560 001
Ph: 080-22860644 / 9483534444, Email: vtpckarnataka@gmail.com
Website: https://vtpc.karnataka.gov.in

No.:VTPC/AD/GI Pavilion/2026-27 Date:16.04.2026

### Tender for Selection of Construction Firm for carrying out Interior Works of the proposed Karnataka Pavilion at the International Bay of Terminal-2, KIAL, Bengaluru

(Through e-Procurement only)

Visvesvaraya Trade Promotion Centre (VTPC), the nodal agency for promotion of exports from Karnataka State proposes to select a **Construction Firm for carrying out Interior Works of the proposed Karnataka Pavilion at the International Bay of Terminal-2, KIAL, Bengaluru** through e-tender.

Tender Document containing details of eligibility criteria, scope of work and other terms and conditions may be obtained from the website of e-procurement Department, Government of Karnataka. The last date for submission of Tenders at **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** is **18.05.2026 at 5.00 pm.** VTPC reserves the right to cancel the tender/ reject any or all Proposals without assigning any reason, whatsoever.

**Sd/- Director (Exports) and Managing Director**

Government of Karnataka - Water Resources Department

## Bhadra Command Area Development Authority

**Engineering Division, Malavagoppa,**
Nidhige Post Office, Shivamogga – 577222
No.: BCS/E.Dept./T.Section/Re Tender/2026-27/19
Date: 15.04.2026

### Short-Term Re-Tender Notice (IFT-02/2026-27)

Head of Account: 2705-115

On behalf of the Hon'ble Administrative Officer, Bhadra CADA, Shivamogga, the Executive Engineer, Engineering Division, Bhadra Command Area Development Authority, Malavagoppa, Shivamogga invites detailed competitive Short-Term Re Tenders in two cover system through KPP Portal as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act – 1999, Rules – 2000 and Regulations 2017 for appointing required personnel on temporary basis through Human Resource Firms for certain posts that are vacant at the offices of Administrative Officer, Bhadra CADA, Shivamogga, Executive Engineer, Engineering Division, Bhadra CADA, Shivamogga and Assistant Executive Engineer, Engineering Sub Division, Bhadra CADA, Shivamogga/Siddapura and Agriculture and Co-operation Sub Division Bhadra CADA, Shivamogga, and Chairman's Personal Section Offices for the year 2026-27 (From 01.04.2026 to 31.03.2027).

**Details are as below**

**1.** Date for accessing Tender in KPP Portal: From 15.04.2026 to 24.04.2026. **2.** Last date for submission of filled Bids: 24.04.2026 up to 4.30 PM. **3**. Date of opening Technical Bid (two cover system): 27.04.2026 at 11.30 AM. **4**. Date of opening Financial Bid: 28.04.2026 after 12.30 PM.

For further information can be obtained from the office of Engineering Division, Bhadra CADA, Shivamogga during office hours or through website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Sd/-

**Sd/- Executive Engineer, Engineering Division**
**Bhadra CADA, Shivamogga**

DIPR/smg/ksmca/26-27/88/04/99

## BENGALURU-MYSURU INFRASTRUCTURE CORRIDOR AREA PLANNING AUTHORITY

No.5, Second Floor, Looplane, Race Course Road, Bengaluru - 560009
Ph: 080-22341230/35, E-mail: bmicapa@gmail.com

No.BMICAPA/CLU-02/106/2025-26/93 Dated: 16.04.2026

### PUBLICATION

(UNDER SEC 14(A) OF KTCP ACT, 1961)

Sri C.V.Chandra Sagar S/o A.C. Chandra has applied to this Authority seeking Change of land use from **"Agriculture"** Zone to **"Commercial"** purpose pertaining to Sy.No:159/2 extent of 04Acre-11 Guntas which is in the Agriculture zone (Including 0Acre-2$^{1}/_{2}$ Guntas Kallumarati Kharab which is in Agricultural Zone in Part of 0Acre-05Guntas Kallumarati Kharab and 0Acre-13 Guntas Jaago Jowgu Kharab) Part of 06Acre-12Guntas of Belakere Village, Maluru Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk, Bengaluru South District under Sec 14(A) of KTCP Act 1961. The foresaid land is reserved for **Agriculture Zone** in approved Master Plan. Applicant has stated that the change of land use sought is in the interest of public by quoting the following;

1) By developing the above said land for Commercial Purpose the General public will get job opportunities.
2) During the development works of the layout there will be job opportunity for labourers.
3) Surrounding areas will be developed by developing the Commercial development in the above said land.
4) By developing the Commercial development Government will get income in the form of various Taxes.

Objections, if any, are invited from the public, any person may file his/her objection to Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bengaluru in writing to the above address mentioned in this publication within 15 days from this notice. Any objections received after stipulated time will not be considered.

Sd/-
Member Secretary,
DIPR/CP/232/CCL/2026-27 B.M.I.C.A.P.A., Bengaluru

## RAJASTHAN STATE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT CORPORATION LTD.

(A Rajasthan Government Undertaking)
Udyog Bhawan, Tilak Marg, Jaipur- 302005, Phone- 0141-2227751, 4593201
E-mail: riico@riico.co.in Website-riico.rajasthan.gov.in

### TENDER NOTICE

RIICO invites sealed tenders/bids through eproc.rajasthan.gov.in for the following works/ services/supply etc.

| Sr. No. | Office & Type of Work | Estimated Cost (Rs.in Lacs) |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | **Unit Head, Balotra** | |
| 1.1 | Develpoment of Industrial Area Borawas Phase-II, Balotra. **UBN-RDC2627WLOB00185** | 5872.65 |
| 1.2 | Construction of Boundary Demarcation Pillars around outer Periphery of Allotted Land at Village Maliyo ki Dhani, Newai, Ratanada and Jerla, Tehsil Pachpadra, Dist. Balotra. **UBN-RDC2627WSOB00149** | 305.37 |
| 2. | **Unit Head, Jaipur(North)** | |
| 2.1 | Upgradation of Infrastructure Works at Industrial Area Jhotwara (T.A.), Jaipur. **UBN-RDC2627WLOB00160** | 1595.14 |
| 2.2 | Improvement of Berms by Paved Shoulders at Industrial Area VKIA, Jaipur. **UBN-RDC2627WLOB00161** | 947.71 |
| 3. | **Unit Head, Ajmer** | |
| 3.1 | Construction of Cement Concrete Road at Industrial Area Saradhana, Unit Ajmer. **UBN-RDC2627WLOB00151** | 501.03 |
| 4. | **Unit Head, Banswara** | |
| 4.1 | Upgradation of Infrastructure at Industrial Area Thikariya (T.A.), Banswara. **UBN-RDC2627WLOB00166** | 939.96 |
| 5. | **Unit Head, Udaipur** | |
| 5.1 | Construction of Roads and RCC Box Culvert, Boundary Wall of Open Areas and Welcome Gate Works for Residential Zone and Industrial Zone at Industrial Area Kaladwas (Extn.), Udaipur. **UBN-RDC2627WSOB00150** | 438.57 |
| 6. | **Unit Head, Jodhpur** | |
| 6.1 | Construction of Box-Culvert Drain at Transferred Industrial Area, Jodhpur. **UBN-RDC2627WSOB00176** | 427.12 |
| 6.2 | Construction of Cement Concrete Road at Transferred Industrial Area, Jodhpur. **UBN-RDC2627WSOB00177** | 295.93 |
| 7. | **Unit Head, Kota** | |
| 7.1 | Regular up-keeping and O&M of Industrial Area Indraprastha and Electronic Complex, Kota. **UBN-RDC2627WSOB00215** | 400.31 |
| 8. | **Unit Head, Jalore** | |
| 8.1 | Upgradation of Infrastructure at Industrial Area Bhinmal Under MSE-CDP. **UBN-RDC2627WSOB00217** | 329.97 |
| 8.2 | Upgradation of Infrastructure at Industrial Area Bhinmal. **UBN-RDC2627WSOB00218** | 298.30 |

Bidders/contractors may download and submit tender online. Detailed information of tenders and any kind of corrigendum/ date extension, if any in future, may be seen by bidders on websites riico.rajasthan.gov.in, www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in and www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in
For queries please contact: GM (Civil) Ph. 0141-4593214 Raj.Samwad/C/26/1050

# Gill blazes away to the lead in the South India Rally

Piloting a Volkswagen Polo, he finishes 5.1 seconds ahead of arch-rival Kadur in the APRC segment with Saldanha in third place; Mavaji and Dheerendra top the INRC 2 and INRC 3 classes

MOTORSPORTS

**Sports Bureau**
CHENNAI

Gaurav Gill, returning to rallying after a year's break, showed no rustiness as he topped the time sheets in the 49th South India Rally, which commenced at the Madras International Circuit here on Friday. The three-day event is also the second round of the FIA Asia-Pacific Rally Championship and Round-1 of the FMSCI Indian National Rally Championship.

The 44-year-old Gill, a three-time APRC champion and winner of seven National titles, clocked a combined time of two minutes, 51.5 seconds for the two loops of 1.45 kms dirt Super Special Stage. He piloted a Volkswagen Polo to finish 5.1 seconds ahead of arch-rival Karna Kadur in the APRC segment with Jason Saldanha in third place.

**Revving it up:** Gill on the charge in the Super Special Stage on Friday.

Gill, with the experienced Srikanth Gowda as co-driver for the first time, gave a near-flawless exhibition of pace, precision and car control and looked to be in a good space going into Saturday's Special Stages. Arun Y. Mavaji and Arvind Dheerendra topped the INRC 2 and INRC 3 classes, respectively, while Tarushi Vikram was the fastest in the Ladies class and also in the Junior INRC category.

**Provisional results (Leg-1, Section-1): Asia-Pacific Rally Championship:** 1. Gaurav Gill & Srikanth Gowda (02mins, 51.5secs); 2. Karna Kadur & Kumar Ramaswamy (02:56.6); 3. Jason Saldanha & P.V. Srinivasa Murthy (02:58.3).

**Indian National Rally Championship: INRC Overall:** 1. Gill & Gowda (02:51.5); 2. Ritesh Rai & Phalguna Raghavendra (02:55.6); 3. Kadur & Ramaswamy (02:56.6)

**INRC 2:** 1. Arjun Y. Mavaji & Jeevarathinam J. (03:09.5); 2. Ritesh Guttedar & M. Suraj (03:10.3); 3. Rakshith Iyer & Chandrashekar (03:18.2).

**INRC 3:** 1. Arvind Dheerendra & Shahid Salman (03:01.5); 2. Ashwin Pulagiri & Raghunath Swaminathan (03:01.9); 3. Tarushi Vikram & Athreya Kousgi (03:05.6).

**INRC 3T:** 1. Vikash Balachandran & Chiranth Jain (02:59.6); 2. K.C. Adith & C.A. Avinash (03:09.7); 3. Sidhartha Santosh & Sawan Sathyanarayan (03:11.9).

**Ladies:** 1. Tarushi Vikram & Athreya Kousgi (03:05.6); 2. Athira Murali & Arun Chakkalakkal (03:05.9); 3. Shivani Pruthvi & Vinay Padmashali (03:09.4).

**Junior INRC:** 1. Tarushi & Athreya (03:05.6); 2. Hoshmand Elavia & Venu Ramesh Kumar (03:14.0).

# South Korea hopes to bring back F1

**Agence France-Presse**
SEOUL

South Korea wants to host a Formula One race for the first time since 2013 after unveiling a new circuit design that officials say is financially viable.

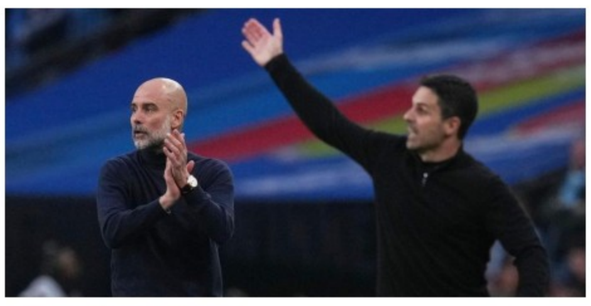
The plan would see races held on a five-km street circuit in Incheon although the idea is still in its infancy. The Korean GP was part of the calendar at a different circuit in the south of the country from 2010 but was axed after three years because of costs and tepid interest locally.

# Judgement day for Manchester City and Arsenal in title showdown

PREMIER LEAGUE

**Agence France-Presse**
LONDON

Title-chasing Manchester City faces leader Arsenal in a seismic showdown at the top of the Premier League on Sunday. Troubled Chelsea desperately needs a win against Manchester United in the race for Champions League qualification, while Liverpool is also in search of a morale boost in the Merseyside derby. Mikel Arteta's side travels to the Etihad Stadium on Sunday nursing a a six-point lead over second-placed City as it targets a first English title since 2004. The Gunners have won just one of their last five matches in all competitions, while City is approaching top gear, having beaten Arsenal, Liverpool and Chelsea in their last three games.



**Different circumstances:** While Guardiola's City would have had a week's break, Arteta's Arsenal will have to shake off its Champions League tiredeness. AP

"There's no beating around the bush. We have to perform better than we did against Bournemouth and probably Sporting as well," Arsenal's Declan Rice said. Rocked by a miserable run of just one win in its last seven league games, Chelsea is on the brink of falling out of the battle for Champions League places.

Unceremoniously dumped out of the Champions League by Paris Saint-Germain on Tuesday, Liverpool aims to make amends in its first appearance at Everton's Hill Dickinson Stadium on Sunday.

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M BG-BGE

# Cong. seeks to contain fallout over action against Muslim leaders

Jarkiholi's meeting with Shivakumar on Friday sparks speculation over a possible rollback of Abdul Jabbar's suspension

**Nagesh Prabhu**
BENGALURU

As the "cold war" between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy D.K. Shivakumar continues over a possible change in leadership in the Karnataka government, a meeting between PWD Minister Satish Jarkiholi and Mr. Shivakumar on Friday has fuelled fresh speculation over the possible revocation of MLC K. Abdul Jabbar's suspension from the primary membership of the Congress to control further damage.

PWD Minister Satish Jarkiholi meeting Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar at the latter's residence in Bengaluru on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The developments come in the backdrop of disciplinary action against certain Muslim leaders over alleged anti-party activities during the Davangere South Assembly byelection.

Prior to his suspension, Mr. Jabbar was reportedly asked to resign from the post of KPCC minority cell chief.

**Hour-long meeting**
During an hour-long meeting at Mr. Shivakumar's residence, Mr. Jarkiholi is learnt to have urged the KPCC president to revoke Mr. Jabbar's suspension to retain minority support for the party. Some Ministers are of the view that action against minority leaders could have been deferred until after the bypoll results on May 4. They cautioned that the swift decision, without serving notice, might send a wrong signal to the minority community and adversely affect the party's support base ahead of local body elections and the 2028 Assembly polls.

The minority vote base is believed to have shifted significantly from the JD(S) to the Congress during the 2023 Assembly elections, contributing to the party's victory.

**Loyalists question**
Following opposition from Muslim clerics to Mr. Jabbar's suspension and the removal of MLC Naseer Ahmed from the post of political secretary to the Chief Minister, loyalists of Mr. Siddaramaiah have expressed dissatisfaction over his silence on the developments. MLA K.N. Rajanna, who was earlier dropped from the Cabinet, questioned the political compulsions behind the Chief Minister's inaction when his supporters faced disciplinary measures.

Mr. Rajanna also questioned why similar action was not taken when the late Shamanur Shivashankarappa had appealed to voters in Shivamogga to support BJP leader B.Y. Raghavendra during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

He further alleged that the Congress high command appeared to be targeting loyalists of the Chief Minister and committed party workers. Chief Minister's loyalist MLC K. Govindaraju was removed from the post of political secretary of the Chief Minister following the death of 11 people during RCB's victory celebrations in Bengaluru last year.

**Defending Zameer**
Meanwhile, MLA H.C. Balakrishna, considered close to Mr. Shivakumar, defended Minister B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan, saying he did not believe the latter had indulged in anti-party activities, though he may have spoken emotionally at times.

He added that the party high command monitors conduct and takes action where necessary.

Sources indicated that the party high command is likely to take a firm decision on the leadership issue soon after the results of the five Legislative Assembly elections are announced on May 4.

## No personal matter: DKS

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Asked about PWD Minister Satish Jarkiholi's statement that he would speak about the action taken against Abdul Jabbar and Naseer Ahmed, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar told reporters on Friday that it was "no personal matter" and the party has its own norms and conventions.

"Without the Delhi leadership saying something or giving direction regarding MLA and MLC matters, we cannot act on our own. Some things have to be done as per guidance. Some may complain about me – even that is fine. All of us have to work within the discipline of the party," he said.

Claiming that there were no factions within the Congress party, Mr. Shivakumar said that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and he were working together. "We are together. We sit together and discuss things every single day. Where is this 'group' among us? All the MLAs are ours. It is the media that is dividing us."

# Trekking SOP announced; online registration and nature guides mandatory

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Forest Department released the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for trekking trails in the State. The SOP has been drawn up after a trekker from Kerala went missing in Tadiandamol forest in Kodagu district earlier this month.

**Mandates**
Releasing the SOP on Friday, Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre said trekking will not be permitted on any approved Forest Department trekking trail in Karnataka without a nature guide.

**Online registration**
"Online registration for trekking is mandatory. There will be one local nature guide for every 10 trekkers. Even if only one person registers for trekking on a given day, a guide will be provided," he said.

"A maximum of 150 people per batch will be allowed on each trekking route," Mr. Khandre said.

According to the SOP, all nature guides on trekking routes will be provided with GPS-enabled walkie-talkies.

Besides, a mobile app with details of trekking route maps will be installed in every trekker's phone, which will help locate trekkers if they get lost. Before commencing a trail, trekkers will be briefed about the distance, duration, and local conditions. They will also be instructed on how to respond if they encounter wildlife. Use of loud devices, carrying sharp metal objects or weapons, and lighting campfires will not be permitted on trekking routes. Separate toilet facilities for men and women, and drinking water arrangements will be provided at the base camp.

Signboards and arrow markings will guide trekkers along the route. Resting points will be created along the way.

**No one to lag behind**
The SOP lists that the guides must ensure that no trekker moves ahead of them or lags behind. Headcount must be conducted at base camp and rest points.

Guides have been instructed to communicate with the base camp via walkie-talkie every 30 minutes. If there is no communication from the guide within one hour of starting the trek, base camp staff will have to contact them to confirm the safety of the trekkers.

**Minors, senior citizens**
Minors must have written consent from parents or guardians to participate in trekking. Senior citizens must provide a fitness certificate confirming their physical ability to undertake the trek.

"Guides must carry a first-aid kit to handle any health emergency among trekkers. Use of flash photography, single-use plastic, and carry bags is prohibited. Trekkers must bring back their waste, and dispose it of at the base camp," as per the SOP.

**The SOP lists that the guides must ensure that no trekker moves ahead of them or lags behind**

**Guide protocols**

- All nature guides will be provided with **GPS-enabled walkie-talkies**
- Guides to communicate with base camp via walkie-talkie **every 30 minutes**
- Guides must ensure that no trekker moves ahead of them or lags behind
- **Headcount** to be conducted at base camp, and rest points
- If no communication from the guide **within one hour** of starting the trek, base camp staff will have to contact them to confirm the safety of trekkers
- Guides must carry a **first-aid kit** to handle any health emergency

## Cabinet nod for Rohith Act welcomed

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The 'Campaign for Rohith Act' has welcomed the State government's move approving the Rohith Bill in its Cabinet meeting on Thursday. The campaign also expressed delight that the approved Bill retains most of the people's draft as submitted to the government and further developed in collaboration with the government in two roundtable consultations.

The campaign further urged the government to consider prescribing provisions to improve accessibility of the district courts for aggrieved persons under this law and to prescribe time limits within which appeals under this law must be disposed of.

## Yogeeshgouda Goudar's sister celebrates conviction

**The Hindu Bureau**
HUBBALI

As a special court in Bengaluru on Thursday sentenced Congress MLA and former Minister Vinay Kulkarni and 16 others to life imprisonment for criminal conspiracy and the murder of BJP zilla panchayat member Yogeeshgouda Goudar in Dharwad in 2016, the victim's elder sister, Akkamahadevi, celebrated the verdict by bursting crackers.

Akkamma alias Akkamahadevi, who resides in Daroga Oni in Dharwad, told reporters that she was happy that finally after ten years, justice had been served. Yogeeshgouda's brother Gurunathgouda was not available for comment. Meanwhile Yogeeshgouda's wife Mallamma told press persons that she was neither happy nor sad over the verdict and she would obey the court, which had analysed everything before delivering judgment.

Basavaraj Korawar, a former policeman, who led the fight for CBI investigation into the case, welcomed the verdict. Every attempt was made to cover up the case in connivance with few police officials, but finally justice had been delivered, he said. He said he was neither happy nor sad over the verdict because, when the murder took place, the same government was in power. "The practice of transferring police officers based on letters from legislators should stop. I will make an appeal to the Chief Minister in this regard," he said.

# Menstrual leave: State to implement law with penal provisions to deter violators

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The legislation that will be brought in to implement the menstrual leave policy in Karnataka, following the recent High Court order, will include penal provisions to check violations by employers, thus providing teeth to the legislation.

Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil said the government will enact a comprehensive legislation on the matter soon and this law will include penal provisions to ensure it is implemented uniformly across all sectors.

The State government, which issued a Government Order (GO) on menstrual leave in November 2025, introduced the Karnataka Women Well Being Leave Bill, 2025 in December 2025, a comprehensive legislation which defines a menstruating person to encompass girls, women, and transgender individuals up to the age of 52.

However, it is yet to receive Cabinet approval before being piloted to the legislature.

Incidentally, there is another petition pending before the Karnataka High Court in Bengaluru that has challenged the power of the government to issue and implement the GO. However, no stay has been placed on the GO.

**Not implemented**
In the absence of a mechanism to address violations in the GO, a majority of manufacturing industries have failed to implement the provision of one day of paid menstrual leave per month for female employees aged 18 to 52.

Garment industries, which are dominated by women, have not implemented the leave, while the State government has excluded scheme workers such as ASHA, Anganwadi and mid-day meal workers – whose numbers run into several lakhs – from the policy.

**Unorganised sector**
The service sector, including retail, IT and banking, has largely not implemented the order, while the unorganised sector – including domestic and construction workers – despite having an employer-employee relationship, has also not complied with it.

**Unions' stand**
"A majority of employers have so far refused to comply with the GO on the grounds that it had been challenged. In fact, many women workers often ask us about its implementation," said All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) leader Jayamma, who was part of the 18-member committee that recommended menstrual leave.

"Even the GO by the State government is flawed. Scheme workers have been left out, along with domestic workers and construction workers, in the unorganised sector. There is no reference as to who will monitor and implement the policy. A strong legislation is required."

The Karnataka High Court order has provided hope to about four lakh women employed in the women-dominated garment industries in the State, and we will seek its implementation at the earliest, said Prathibha R., president of Garment and Textile Workers Union.

"The garment sector has not implemented the policy, and the case in the High Court was being cited despite our plea. The sector prefers to employ women because of cheap labour, but does not want to provide benefits," she said.

# Karnataka hosts 'Bridge to Bengaluru 2026' meet with diplomats in Delhi

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The Government of Karnataka hosted 'Bridge to Bengaluru 2026 – Dialogue with Diplomats', a State-led diplomatic engagement focused on technology, innovation, and global partnerships, in New Delhi on Friday.

A Dialogue with Diplomats on
as a prel to Bengalur ech Summit 2
SHRI PRIYANK KHARGE
SHRI SIDDARAMAIAH
SHRI D.K. SHIVAKUMAR
Chief Minister Siddaramaiah with Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and Priyank Kharge, Minister of Electronics, Information Technology & Biotechnology, at the 'Bridge to Bengaluru' event in New Delhi. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The high-level dialogue was led by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, Minister for Large and Medium Industries M.B. Patil, and Minister for Electronics, IT, Biotechnology and Rural Development & Panchayat Raj Priyank Kharge, along with other senior government officials and global industry leaders.

The event brought together more than 140 participants, including Ambassadors, High Commissioners, and senior diplomatic representatives from over 80 countries. It also saw participation from international trade and investment organisations.

Citing Karnataka's expanding global engagements and partnerships, Mr. Siddaramaiah remarked that the State is ready to partner with the world, not just in technology, but across trade, innovation, and people-to-people collaboration.

Highlighting Bengaluru's position as a global innovation hub and preferred destination for talent and investment, Mr. Shivakumar said, "Bengaluru is not just a city you visit – it is a city you build with. It continues to attract global talent, innovation, and investment because of its openness, ecosystem strength, and quality of life."

Mr. Kharge noted that the State is not looking for passive partnerships, but for co-creators to build long-term, outcome-driven innovation collaborations. A key highlight of the dialogue was the evolution of the Global Innovation Alliance (GIA) 2.0, designed to move GIA from engagement to measurable outcomes.

The dialogue also served as a curtain raiser to the Bengaluru Tech Summit (BTS) 2026, scheduled from November 17 to November 19 at the Bangalore International Exhibition Centre.

# Medical Education Minister warns hospitals over drug shortage, ICU gaps

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Minister for Medical Education Sharan Prakash Patil on Friday warned of stringent departmental action against directors of government medical colleges and hospitals over recurring complaints of drug shortage, inadequate ICU capacity and poor sanitation.

Chairing a review meeting, the Minister referred to observations by the Karnataka Lokayukta and public grievances on the availability of essential medicines in hospitals under the department.

Taking exception to delays in procurement, he questioned hospital heads for waiting until stocks were exhausted before initiating tenders. "Why do you wait until drug stocks are exhausted before inviting tenders?" he asked, directing institutions to begin the procurement process at least three months in advance.

Sharan Prakash Patil
ARUN KULKARNI

**Shortage of ICU beds**
On complaints of a shortage of intensive care facilities, the Minister sought an explanation from officials of Victoria Hospital. As an immediate measure, he instructed Additional Chief Secretary Mohammed Mohsin and Director of Medical Education B.L. Sujatha Rathod to allot an entire floor in the upcoming 10-storey building of the hospital for additional ICU beds.

The facility is scheduled to be inaugurated by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on May 2.

The Minister also expressed concern over sanitation and maintenance. "During my district visits, complaints about unclean washrooms are routine. Clean washrooms are not a luxury; they are a matter of basic human dignity," he said.

The engineering wing was asked to expedite pending civil works, with a deadline set for the end of May for near-complete buildings.

Raising financial concerns, the Minister pulled up institutions for underutilising funds under the Ayushman Bharat-Arogya Karnataka scheme. He noted that some hospitals were claiming only about 60% of eligible reimbursements. "Only 100% claims can make an institution self-sustaining," he said.

**On complaints of a shortage of intensive care facilities, the Minister sought an explanation from officials of Victoria Hospital**

Rahul Gandhi and M.K. Stalin. FILE PHOTO

# 'Stalin, Rahul unlikely to share stage for T.N. election campaign'

**The Hindu Bureau**
CHENNAI

DMK president and Chief Minister M.K. Stalin and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi are unlikely to share the stage during the campaign for the upcoming Assembly elections in Tamil Nadu, DMK organisation secretary R.S. Bharathi said on Friday.

Speaking to reporters at Anna Arivalayam, the DMK headquarters in Chennai, Mr. Bharathi, while responding to a question on Mr. Gandhi's campaign schedule in Tamil Nadu, where he is set to tour Ponneri, Sholinghur, and Thuraiyur on Saturday, said Mr. Stalin's tour programme had already been fixed.

"He [Rahul Gandhi] is campaigning on one side, while we [the DMK] are campaigning on the other, both for the candidates of our alliance. DMK leaders and workers will participate in his campaign. Since the Chief Minister will have to campaign in nearly 40 more Assembly segments, and will be seeking votes in his Kolathur Assembly segment on April 21, his campaign cannot be rescheduled," Mr. Bharathi said.

Mr. Bharathi's remarks come against the backdrop of Mr. Stalin and Mr. Gandhi campaigning in Puducherry ahead of the polls on the same day but at different venues, evoking speculation on why both of them had not shared the stage.

**Malpractice complaint**

Further, he also claimed BJP workers were involved in electoral malpractices and a tech tycoon was allegedly involved in transferring money to the party's workers for electoral spending. He also charged the AIADMK with distributing dummy cheques of ₹10,000 to voters. He said the DMK had filed a complaint with the Election Commission of India to probe these alleged electoral malpractices.

# Nine tourists from Kerala killed in accident in Valparai

The deceased were part of a 12-member group from Malappuram district; three shifted to hospital in Coimbatore with severe injuries; police say the van they travelled in fell from a hairpin bend

**The Hindu Bureau**
COIMBATORE/
MALAPPURAM

Most of the passengers in the van were teachers of the Government Lower Primary School at Pang in Malappuram. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Nine members of a 12-member tourist group from Malappuram district in Kerala were killed when their van fell off a hairpin bend on the ghat road at Valparai in Coimbatore district on Friday.

The remaining members of the group were admitted to hospitals with injuries. Three of the critically injured were shifted from Pollachi to a hospital in Coimbatore for advanced treatment. The van reportedly fell from the hairpin bend 13 to hairpin bend 9 between 5.15 p.m. and 5.30 p.m. The Valparai-Pollachi Road has a total of 40 hairpin bends. Seven women and a 12-year-old boy were among the deceased.

Most of the passengers in the van were teachers of the Government Lower Primary School, Pang, in Kuruva panchayat and their family members. Mohammed Fasith, 21, who drove the van, was among the three admitted to a hospital at Coimbatore with serious injuries.

Residents of Pang were left in shock as news reached the village in the evening.

Senior officials of the Coimbatore District Police rushed to the spot and supervised the rescue and relief operations.

Coimbatore Collector Pavankumar G. Giriyappanavar told *The Hindu* that arrangements have been been at the District Headquarters Hospital at Pollachi for the post-mortem examination of the deceased.

# Sasikala criticises DMK and AIADMK for 'recklessly miring T.N. in financial morass'

**The Hindu Bureau**
COIMBATORE

V.K. Sasikala

All India Puratchi Thalaivar Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam (AIPTMMK) leader V. K. Sasikala on Friday slammed both the DMK and AIADMK for promising freebies "recklessly" even as Tamil Nadu was reeling under huge debts and cash crunch.

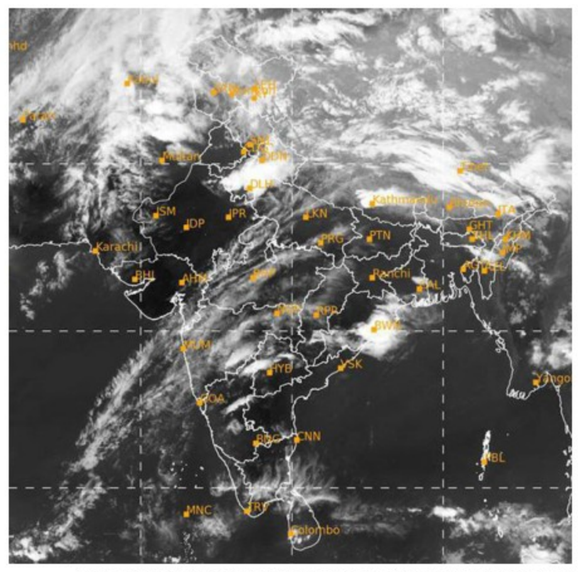
While her criticism of the DMK government over "administrative failure" was direct, Ms. Sasikala referred to the AIADMK as the "previous regime", while charging both parties with saddling every unborn child with a loan of ₹2 lakh due to the freebie culture. She questioned the rationale behind the DMK promising ₹8,000 for purchase of home appliances under the *Illatharasi* scheme, and the AIADMK's guarantee to provide a refrigerator and ₹10,000 per ration card holder, at a time when 6 lakh retirement vacancies in government departments could not be filled due to fund constraints.

"The freebies would only add extra burden on the people as the government has to either impose higher taxes or keep piling up loans. The poor were already suffering due to drastic shortage of doctors and paramedical staff at government hospitals and primary health centres. People must teach a lesson to these parties (DMK and AIADMK) for failing to fulfil their poll promises and yet speaking lies and coming back again for votes," Ms. Sasikala said while campaigning for her party's Singanallur candidate N.R. Appadurai.

The AIPTMMK leader cited the mismanagement of the electricity department, which was reeling under heavy debts as a case in point to highlight the government's administrative failure.

## WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

**Forecast for Saturday:** Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and West Bengal. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Bihar, Odisha, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. Hot and humid weather likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Kerala

| CITY | RAIN | MAX | MIN | CITY | RAIN | MAX | MIN |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Agartala | — | 34.8 | 25.1 | Kozhikode | — | 37.0 | 28.5 |
| Ahmedabad | — | 40.9 | 26.4 | Kurnool | — | 43.4 | 29.9 |
| Aizawl | — | 33.8 | 20.2 | Lucknow | — | 39.8 | 21.5 |
| Allahabad | — | 44.0 | 22.2 | Madurai | — | 38.5 | 26.4 |
| Bengaluru | — | 36.3 | 24.6 | Mangaluru | 8 | 33.8 | 22.5 |
| Bhopal | — | 41.3 | 24.0 | Mumbai | — | 33.1 | 23.7 |
| Bhubaneswar | — | 35.7 | 26.6 | Mysuru | — | 37.0 | 21.2 |
| Chandigarh | — | 36.7 | 20.2 | New Delhi | — | 41.0 | 24.0 |
| Chennai | — | 37.1 | 27.8 | Patna | — | 36.8 | 23.0 |
| Coimbatore | — | 39.2 | 25.4 | Port Blair | — | 32.3 | 24.8 |
| Dehradun | — | 35.5 | 18.5 | Puducherry | — | 35.0 | 27.6 |
| Gangtok | 13 | 19.4 | 13.7 | Pune | — | 41.5 | 22.6 |
| Goa | — | 33.6 | 25.3 | Raipur | — | 42.8 | 29.2 |
| Guwahati | — | 33.6 | 22.4 | Ranchi | — | 37.1 | 23.0 |
| Hubballi | — | 38.0 | 22.0 | Shillong | — | 23.0 | 14.2 |
| Hyderabad | — | 40.6 | 28.2 | Shimla | — | 28.7 | 15.5 |
| Imphal | — | 31.3 | 17.7 | Srinagar | 3 | 15.9 | 11.5 |
| Jaipur | — | 39.8 | 28.1 | Thiruvananthapuram | — | 35.6 | 26.8 |
| Kochi | — | 33.8 | 29.0 | Tiruchi | — | 38.7 | 26.6 |
| Kohima | — | 22.7 | 14.5 | Vijayawada | — | 38.8 | 27.0 |
| Kolkata | — | 35.6 | 27.4 | Visakhapatnam | — | 33.3 | 27.5 |

*(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)*

**Pollutants in the air you are breathing**

| CITIES | $SO_2$ | $NO_2$ | CO | PM2.5 | PM10 | CODE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ahmedabad | .72 | ..44 | 64 | ..... 70 | ...138 | |
| Bengaluru | .18 | ..18 | 28 | ..... 78 | ...124 | |
| Chennai | ...4 | ....4 | 42 | ..... 61 | ....50 | |
| Delhi | .20 | 145 | 43 | ... 279 | ...396 | |
| Hyderabad | .15 | ..15 | 35 | ..... 62 | ....91 | |
| Kolkata | ...7 | ..35 | 32 | ..... 42 | ....46 | |
| Lucknow | .14 | ..55 | 44 | ... 278 | ...151 | |
| Mumbai | ...3 | ..16 | 50 | ..... 54 | ...136 | |
| Pune | .46 | ..52 | 48 | ..... 44 | ....66 | |
| Visakhapatnam | .36 | ..45 | 16 | ..... 30 | ...100 | |

**Yesterday**

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 346 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Puducherry recorded a healthy AQI score of 22

**Air Quality Code:** Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

**$SO_2$:** Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

**$NO_2$:** Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

**CO:** Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

**PM2.5 & PM10:** Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

## INBRIEF

### Prepare temple town development plan: Naidu

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu directed officials to prepare a 'temple town development plan' to ensure planned development of areas surrounding major temples and to promote spiritual tourism in the State. Mr. Naidu told officials to complete the construction of 5,000 temples across the State in the next two years using Srivani funds. He asked officials to improve accommodation facilities and to study the crowd management practices followed by Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) so that they could be replicated at other temples.

### Excise Inspector in Telangana caught taking ₹2 lakh bribe

A Telangana Prohibition and Excise Inspector posted in Bichkunda of Kamareddy district was arrested by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Friday while allegedly accepting a bribe of ₹2 lakh for discharging official duties. The accused officer, identified as Deenu Satyanarayana, was caught while demanding and accepting the bribe from a complainant. The amount was sought for not pressuring the complainant to shift toddy shops from certain villages and not registering further cases, thereby allowing the shops to operate without interference.

### Comedian held for remarks on Pawan Kalyan gets bail

A local court in Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh on Friday granted bail to Hyderabad-based stand-up comedian Anudeep Katikala days after he was arrested for alleged derogatory remarks on the personal life of Deputy Chief Minister K. Pawan Kalyan. Mr. Anudeep was arrested on April 15 from Uttar Pradesh by Kakinada police after Bade Venkata Krishna, a Jana Sena supporter lodged a complaint against him. "A case has been registered under the sections BNS 356 (2), 353 (2), 79 and the IT Act," Kakinada SP said.

# Congress MP slams party's spat over Kerala CM face

**The Hindu Bureau**
KOZHIKODE

Congress leader and Kozhikode MP M.K. Raghavan has flayed a section of his party colleagues over the public row regarding the Chief Ministerial candidate even before the declaration of results of the Kerala Assembly elections.

Mr. Raghavan said that "dragging internal leadership disputes into the streets is damaging the party's reputation and prospects."

Mr. Raghavan expressed his frustration with the ongoing debate, describing the situation as "harmful" to the Congress led-United Democratic Front (UDF) coalition. He also pointed the finger at Ernakulam District Congress Committee president Mohammed Shiyas for "igniting" the controversy with initial public comments that sparked wider internal discussions.

**Raghavan hinted that there were 'deeper issues' within the party that had yet to be addressed**

**'Internal bickering'**

"This is not a healthy environment for the party. Bringing these matters into the public eye serves no purpose other than to undermine the party's unity," Mr. Raghavan said.

In rather candid remarks, he also addressed the "internal bickering" over candidate selection for the just-concluded Assembly elections.

Mr. Raghavan claimed that he had been personally asked by an unnamed leader to contest from a "losing seat" in Kozhikode district and suggested that the decision to prevent certain sitting MPs from moving into State politics was driven by the "stubbornness of a few leaders."

Mr. Raghavan also sought to distance the party's central leadership in New Delhi from the dispute. He argued that the High Command had not initiated the ban on MPs contesting Assembly seats but had "merely acquiesced" to local proposals to avoid further internal conflict.

# Tejasvi's remarks continue to draw ire

**R. Ravikanth Reddy**
HYDERABAD

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Tejasvi Surya's remarks on Telangana continued to raise the hackles among State leaders, with Congress MPs from the State intensifying their protest both inside and outside Parliament.

A delegation of Congress MPs met Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Friday, urging him to expunge the controversial comments from official records. Kadiyam Kavya, Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy, Mallu Ravi, Ramasahayam Raghuram Reddy, Suresh Shetkar, and Gaddam Vamsi, were part of the delegation.

Raising the issue in the Lok Sabha on Thursday night, Warangal MP Kadiyam Kavya alleged that the BJP has consistently failed to understand the self-respect of Telangana people, recalling earlier instances where party leaders termed the formation of Telangana as a "black day."

On Friday, the Congress MPs, including Rajya Sabha members Vem Narender Reddy and Anil Kumar Yadav, staged a dharna within the Parliament premises, demanding an apology from Mr. Surya and the removal of his remarks from the records.

On Thursday, Mr. Surya said in Parliament that the process of division of Andhra Pradesh and formation of Telangana was worse than the way the British partitioned India and Pakistan.

# Every district in A.P. to get 5 animal shelters

**The Hindu Bureau**
VIJAYAWADA

The Andhra Pradesh government has announced a plan to establish five animal shelters in every district to address the growing issue of stray, abandoned, and seized animals.

The initiative aims to improve public safety and animal welfare, particularly in busy urban and semi-urban areas where animals often pose risks to commuters.

According to the Animal Husbandry Department, the animal shelters will be constructed near constituency headquarters using funds from the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) Scheme.

Each animal shelter, requiring a minimum of half an acre of land, will be constructed at an estimated cost of ₹10 lakh.

These facilities are designed to accommodate 20 to 25 large animals, with additional space allocated for fodder cultivation and drinking water arrangements.

The Revenue Department will ensure allocation of land for the facilities, while the construction works will be carried out by the Rural Development Department.

Veterinary care and health services for the animals will be overseen by the Animal Husbandry Department.

The day-to-day operations of the animal shelters will be managed by selected Self-Help Groups, ensuring community participation in the initiative, Animal Husbandry officials said in a press release on Friday.

# 4,100 kg seized ganja destroyed in Tirupati

**The Hindu Bureau**
TIRUPATI

The Tirupati district administration on Friday destroyed 4,100 kg of ganja seized across the district in recent months, sending out a strong warning to drug peddlers.

The contraband, valued at about ₹20 crore, was incinerated at the municipal corporation's solid waste management plant at Thukivakam on the city outskirts. District Collector S. Venkateswar and Superintendent of Police L. Subbarayudu were present.

Mr. Venkateswar said the exercise marked the first step under the State government's zero tolerance policy against drugs and other vices.

Acting on the directions of the Chief Minister, the State administration has constituted a special task force under the supervision of Inspector General-level officer, he said, adding that enforcement would go hand in hand with awareness.

Mr. Subbarayudu said the destruction was carried out with court permission. and asserted that no unlawful activity would be tolerated in the spiritual city of Tirupati.

Additional Superintendents of Police J. Venkat Rao(Admin) and Ravi Manoharachari (Law and Order) were present.

# BDS student's death: Kannur college teachers seek bail

**The Hindu Bureau**
KANNUR

Two teachers of Kannur Dental College accused in the death of first-year BDS student R.L Nithin Raj moved the Thalassery Sessions Court on Friday seeking anticipatory bail, but were denied any interim protection.

The accused, M.K. Ram, Head of the Department (HoD) of Dental Anatomy, and K.T. Sangeetha Nambiar, Associate Professor, are facing charges of abetment of suicide and caste-based harassment. The court posted their bail plea for hearing on April 22 and declined their request for interim relief from arrest.

Nithin Raj

In their plea, the teachers said they had no role in the death of Nithin Raj and contended that the student had been under stress due to alleged threat from a loan application.

**'Serious offences'**

Opposing the interim relief, public prosecutor Ajith Kumar K. submitted that offences under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act are serious and generally do not warrant bail at the initial stage.

**Loan app**

The Chakkarakkal police have registered a case against a loan app, InstaPay, in connection with the same case, invoking stringent legal provisions as allegations of harassment and institutional lapses mount. According to the FIR, the student had availed a loan of ₹15,000 on January 4, through the app which charged an interest rate of 36% in violation of existing laws.

## INBRIEF

### Nasscom announces fourth cohort of GenAI Foundry

Nasscom on Friday announced the fourth cohort of its GenAI Foundry programme, inducting 33 high potential generative AI start-ups and marking the continued expansion of one of India's most focused platforms for building globally competitive GenAI ventures. Confirmed portfolio Annual Recurring Revenue (ARR) grew from $3.9 million in FY24 to $9.7 million in FY25 and is projected to reach nearly $35 million across the programme cohort in FY26, Nasscom said. According to the industry body, the analysis also indicates a strong correlation between programme engagement and revenue outcomes. Over 60% of the start-ups that attribute their growth to the Foundry reported a median ARR of $3,00,000 compared with $90,000 for those with lower engagement levels, it said.

### Coal Ministry launches 15th round of commercial auctions

The Ministry of Coal Friday launched the 15th round of commercial coal mine auctions in Mumbai. A total of 11 blocks are being offered of which seven are fully explored and four are partially explored mines. More significantly, the latest round puts up one coking coal block for auction. Other than the new blocks, the latest round seeks to reattempt auctioning of a further six coal mines from the 13th round. The newer mines being put up for auction are spread across Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and Telangana. Till date, the Ministry has auctioned off 135 coal mines in 13 rounds of commercial coal mine auctions. These cumulatively account for a peak rated capacity of about 325 million tonnes per annum (MTPA).

### Dredging Corp, IOCL sign ₹2,000-cr. fuel supply pact

Dredging Corporation of India (DCIL) on Friday said it has signed a fuel supply agreement with Indian Oil Corporation for a period of five years. "The agreement values at ₹2,157.07 crore and will ensure a steady and reliable fuel supply for the company's operations across the country," Dredging Corporation of India said in a statement. Dredging Corporation of India has signed an MoU with Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) for the supply of fuel to its dredging fleet for a period of five years. Visakhapatnam-based DCIL has five decades of experience in dredging operations, maritime infrastructure and inland waterways. The company is looking to more than double its topline to ₹3,000 crore in the next five years. PTI

# PNGRB close to finalising bids for four LPG pipelines

The suo motu proposal for the pipeline infrastructure is part of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board's objective of doing away with road transportation of bulk LPG by 2030

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

Seeking to further strengthen the infrastructure of liquified petroleum gas (LPG) and ensure storage through pipeline infrastructure, the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) informed on Friday that it was in the process of concluding bid proposals of four such pipelines.

Collectively, the four pipelines would span across approximately 2,500 kilometres and attract an investment of about ₹12,500 crore. The suo motu tendering of the overall LPG pipeline infrastructure is part of the regulator's broader objective of doing away with road transportation of bulk LPG by 2030.

"As part of the initiative, nine LPG pipeline projects were identified for development. PNGRB initiated suo motu proposal and carried out bidding of these pipelines," the regulator said in a statement. "Currently, PNGRB is in the process of concluding bid proposals of four pipelines," it added.

**Safe bet:** PNGRB said that averting road transportation would help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. FILE PHOTO

The first pipeline is from Telangana's Cherlapally to Nagpur in Maharashtra, the second from Maharashtra's Shikrapur to Hubli in Karnataka and thereon to Goa, the third from Odisha's Paradip to Chhattisgarh's Raipur and the fourth from Uttar Pradesh's Jhansi to Uttarakhand's Sitaraganj.

Other than expanding on the infrastructure, the regulator emphasised that the pipeline infrastructure would enable storing the hydrocarbon cooking and alternative automobile gas through pipeline infrastructure so that they could be utilised in times of crisis, and avert the accidental risks associated with transportation by road.

"These pipelines would not only improve safety and efficiency in the supply chain, but would also prove to be more economical over other modes of transportation," it added.

PNGRB also said that averting road transportation via pipelines would help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Separately, the regulator informed that State-owned IndianOil had won the bid for laying, building, operating and expanding the Kochi - Kanyakumari - Thoothukudi Natural Gas pipeline. The proposed pipeline covers approximately 425 km with a system capacity of 6.84 MMSCMD, including the common carrier capacity.

# Banking FDI for nuclear power projects on cards

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

Initiatives to secure infusion of foreign direct investment (FDI) and from the banking sector to finance nuclear power projects are in the pipeline and headed for inter-ministerial consultation, informed Seema Jain, Member of Finance at the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE).

Speaking at the inaugural session of the Workshop on the SHANTI Act, 2025 here, she said, "Financing will require all sorts of innovative measures to happen so that the kind of money and financial space is made for the sector." "For that, banking FDI initiatives are also in the pipeline, the Atomic

REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

Energy Commission has already approved the [FDI] policy, and is now going for inter-ministerial consultations," Ms. Jain added.

Earlier in her address, Ms. Jain had observed that considering a standard baseline cost requirement for setting up of a nuclear reactor is about ₹22 crore per megawatt, instituting 100 gigawatts of nuclear energy-based power would require about ₹20 lakh crore financing.

# Expedite co-location in commodity markets, urges ANMI

**The Hindu Bureau**
MUMBAI

**ANMI said it would engage with the Ministry of Finance, SEBI and the RBI to focus on reforms**

The Association of NSE Members of India (ANMI), led by its new national president Kamlesh D. Shroff, has sought faster roll-out of co-location in commodity markets and tightening action on dormant demat accounts, among others.

ANMI said it would engage with the Ministry of Finance, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and the RBI to focus on reforms such as optimum weekly expiry days, co-location in commodity markets, optimising taxes such as the Securities Transaction Tax (STT) and Commodity Transaction Tax (CTT), and protecting investors by avoiding misuse of dormant or nil balance Demat accounts and PAN/KYC lending.

Commodity derivatives remain less developed than equities in terms of intermediary participation. SEBI's recognised intermediary data show there are 4,936 stock brokers in the equity segment, compared with 2,012 in commodity derivatives, 1,513 in interest-rate derivatives and 741 in debt. "The imbalance suggests that while Indian markets have broadened, activity remains concentrated in a few segments," Mr. Sharoff said.

Dialogue of Industry Stakeholders with
SHRI PRIYANK KHARGE
Minister for Electronics, Information Technology & Biotechnology, and RDPR, Government of Karnataka
Karnataka Minister Priyank Kharge and other dignitaries during the industry dialogue ahead of the Bengaluru Tech Summit 2026. ANI

# 'Bengaluru is India base choice for 7 of top 10 AI firms'

**Aroon Deep**
NEW DELHI

Seven out of the top 10 AI firms globally chose Bengaluru as their base, said Karnataka IT Minister Priyank Kharge, pointing to firms such as Anthropic and Mistral AI.

Mr. Kharge was speaking on the sidelines of a roadshow in the national capital to promote the Bangalore Tech Summit, due to be held in November.

"We have the third highest talent penetration in the world for AI," Mr. Kharge told *The Hindu* in an interview.

"That's why we have got the Nipuna Karnataka initiative, where we are encouraging companies to tie up with the government. They give the curriculum for training, and we make our human resources the most employable ones across the world."

Asked about the growing integration of AI into the IT industry, Mr. Kharge said it was prudent to be cautious. "It's not a leap of faith," he said. "It needs to be a calculated risk because we have seen how it works in other ecosystems. You have seen what's happened in the US with respect to Anthropic, and with respect to ChatGPT... We need to tread a little more cautiously. Speed is important, but I think with caution."

On power and water requirements for data centres, Mr. Kharge said that the government was thinking of "sustainability" in their roll-out. "Two years back, we didn't have a stabilised liquid cooling technology; now people are using that," Mr. Kharge said. "People are confident that no, we don't need to be such water guzzlers. Now there are edge and other types of data centres that are leveraging these things. Any emerging technology needs to be sustainable." "We are having consultations with the energy department, the water resource department, and more importantly with stakeholders on what they think should be our roadmap," Mr. Kharge said, when asked on what Karnataka's gigawattage target would be for datacentres.

On AI use in the State government, Mr. Kharge said that databases first needed sorting out.

"Every day, someone comes and says: look, this is what we can do for the government, from citizen delivery systems to grievance management to property identification... All right, but I think e-governance is dead," he said.

"We need to get into intelligent governance, where we stabilise the data sets, pick what verticals we want to see innovations in. Right now, everything is in silos. The idea is to ensure that we come up with a framework for the government itself. The medical education department is doing something with their data, the health department is trying... But you can't work in silos. So we're trying to see how and which departments can be accelerated, especially if I am able to deliver better governance."

# Indian refiners said to pay for Iran oil in yuan via ICICI Bank

**Reuters**
NEW DELHI/MUMBAI

Indian refiners are settling payments for rare cargoes of Iranian oil purchased under a temporary U.S. sanctions waiver using Chinese yuan through Mumbai-based ICICI Bank, four sources with knowledge of the matter said.

Last month, Washington unveiled 30-day waivers on U.S. sanctions for the purchase of Russian and Iranian oil at sea in an attempt to ease prices that were driven up by the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent on Wednesday said the U.S. would not renew the waivers.

Difficulties over arranging payment for such cargoes given longstanding sanctions on Tehran have deterred some would-be buyers of Iranian crude under the waiver, traders have said.

Earlier this month, IOC bought 2 million barrels of Iranian oil onboard the very large crude carrier Jaya in the country's first purchase of Iranian crude in seven years, *Reuters* reported.

# Adani undertakes ₹1 lakh crore Motilal Nagar Redevelopment project in Mumbai

**Lalatendu Mishra**
MUMBAI

India's biggest redevelopment project, the Motilal Nagar Redevelopment Project at Goregaon (West), in suburban Mumbai is set to take off, with the Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Authority (MHADA) unveiling the master plan on Friday.

Spread across approximately 143 acres in the heart of Mumbai's suburban region, the project is being undertaken under the Construction & Development Agency (C&DA) model by the Adani Group. The total FSI of the project will be 28 lakh sq. metres once completed, and the free-sale component is estimated at 18 lakh sq. mt.

The project will involve an investment of about ₹1 lakh crore by Adani over a period of 7 to 10 years, including ₹36,000 crore to build MHADA housing, rehabilitation flats, rehab commercial units and internal roads.

The comprehensive master plan for the redevelopment of Motilal Nagar 1,

The project is being undertaken under the Construction & Development Agency model

2, and 3 colonies was presented to local residents today at Ganesh Maidan, Goregaon (West) by Sanjeev Jaiswal, IAS, Vice President and Chief Executive Officer, MHADA.

"The Motilal Nagar Redevelopment Project is one of the most important and historic projects in MHADA's journey. The State Government is committed to providing well-planned and quality housing to all citizens," he said.

Pending for nearly two decades, the State government recently gave its nod.

Originally developed in the 1960s, the Motilal Nagar colony catered to the needs of the middle class at the time.

**राष्ट्रीय पृथ्वी विज्ञान अध्ययन केंद्र**
**NATIONAL CENTRE FOR EARTH SCIENCE STUDIES**
पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार
Ministry of Earth Sciences, Govt. of India
Akkulam, Thiruvananthapuram -11
NCESS

No: NCESS/P&GA/9424/03/2026 Date:17.04.2026

**RECRUITMENT**

NCESS conducts walk-in interview on **29.04.2026** at its campus in Thiruvananthapuram, for the post of **Field Assistant** on contract basis. Please visit website for details. Further changes, if any, will be notified through website only.

Website: **www.ncess.gov.in** / Phone No: **0471-2511500.**

**Sd/ Head, Administration (i/c)**

**Government of Rajasthan**
**Local Self Government Department**
**Directorate of Local Bodies, Jaipur, Rajasthan)**
( G-3, Rajmahal Residency, Near Civil Lines, Railway Crossing, Jaipur
Tel No.: +91 1412222469 Fax No.: +91 141 2222403 web site: www.lsg.urban.rajasthan.gov.in
No. F 55 () PA/CE(SBM)/SBM-2/Legacy waste/cluster 1,2,3,4 & 7/2026/6718 Date 10/04/2026

**Notice Inviting Bids (NIB)**
**UBN No.: DLB2627WLOB01253, DLB2627WLOB01254,DLB2627WLOB01255 DLB2627WLOB01256, DLB2627WLOB01257**

Online Technical and Financial Bids in Single Stage two envelops are invited on behalf of Governor of Rajasthan by State Mission Director, SBM (U) for Bioremediation of Legacy Waste (Total 46.80 Lakh Cum) at old Dumpsites in 121 ULBs under Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) 2.0 cluster 1,2,3,4 & 7 up to 11.05.2026 Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the Procurement Portal (**http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in. http: eproc.rajasthan gov.in**) of the State; and LSG Department website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 21879 Lacs.

**DIPR/C/6872/2026** **State Mission Director, SBM (U)**

**राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन, राजस्थान**
**स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग,**
**स्वास्थ्य भवन, तिलक मार्ग, राजस्थान, जयपुर**
फोन नं. 0141-2225736, E-Mail ID: cemhraj@gmail.com

No:- 111 Date:- 09.04.2026

**Short Term E-NIT No-05/2026-27 on EPC MODE**

राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से भवन निर्माण कार्य हेतु उपर्युक्त श्रेणी में राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार/ केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों/ केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/ डाक एवं दूर संचार विभाग/ रेल्वे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के ए, एए श्रेणी के सवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में भवन निर्माण कार्य के लिए EPC Mode पर ई-प्रोक्युरमेन्ट प्रकिया से ऑन लाईन निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती है।

| | |
|---|---|
| कुल कार्यों की संख्या | 01 |
| निविदा की कुल लागत (राशि रु. लाख में) | 3360.00 |
| ऑनलाईन निविदा आवेदन डाउनलोड एवं अपलोड करने की तिथि | 10 अप्रेल 2026 से 20 अप्रेल 2026 सांय 6:00 बजे तक |
| ऑनलाईन निविदा खोलने की तिथि | 21 अप्रेल 2026 पूर्वाह्न 11:00 बजे |

निविदा से सम्बन्धित विवरण वेबसाईट http://dipr.rajasthan.gov.in, http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है। सम्पूर्ण निविदा प्रक्रिया http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर ऑनलाइन सम्पादित की जावेगी।

S. No.1 UBN:- NRH2627WLOB00034

**DIPR/C/6886/26** मुख्य अभियंता चिकित्सा एवं स्वास्थ्य राजस्थान, जयपुर

**KALYANA KARNATAKA ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION**
**Stores & Purchase Department, Central Offices**
Sarige Sadana, Main Road, **Kalaburagi-585 102.**
Mobile No. 77606 86172 (COSP), 77609 92029 (S.O).

No. KKRTC/CO/COSP/01/2026-27 Dated:16.04.2026

**TENDER INVITING NOTICE (THROUGH KPP PORTAL MODE ONLY)**

Tenders through KPP portal (pre-qualification & commercial) are invited for supply of following items.

| Sl. No. | e-Tender No. & Date | Tender Nomenclature | Estimate Value (Rs.) | Last date for submission of tender |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | KKRTC/2025-26/ IND0193 | Supply of Automotive Batteries to divisions of KKRTC | Rs. 3.30 crores | 16.05.2026 15:00 Hrs |
| 2 | KKRTC/2025-26/ IND0194 | Supply of Liquid Urea AUS-32 / Adblue to divisions of KKRTC | Rs. 11.50 crores | 16.05.2026 15:00 Hrs |
| 3 | KKRTC/2026-27/ IND0195 | Supply of Automotive Lubricants to divisions of KKRTC | Rs. 5.20 crores | 16.05.2026 15:00 Hrs |
| 4 | KKRTC/2026-27/ IND0196 | Supply of Non Amino Based Engine Coolant | Rs. 1.28 crores | 16.05.2026 15:00 Hrs |
| 5 | KKRTC/2025-26 / IND0159/Call-3 | Supply of Minor Garage Equipments | Rs. 0.29 crores | 16.05.2026 15:00 Hrs |
| 6 | KKRTC/2025-2026/ IND0160/Call-3 | Supply, Installation and Commisisoning of DG Sets | Rs. 0.34 Crores | 16.05.2026 15:00 Hrs |
| 7 | KKRTC/2026-27/ IND0198 | Supply of Hubs and Brake Drums | Rs. 2.89 Crores | 16.05.2026 15:00 Hrs |
| 8 | KKRTC/2026-27/ IND0199 | Supply of Auto Electrical Parts | Rs. 5.92 Crores | 16.05.2026 15:00 Hrs |
| 9 | KKRTC/2026-27/ IND0200 | Supply of Gear and Gear Parts | Rs. 4.27 Crores | 16.05.2026 15:00 Hrs |
| 10 | KKRTC/2026-27/ IND0201 | Supply of Spring Leaves | Rs. 12.89 Crores | 16.05.2026 15:00 Hrs |
| 11 | KKRTC/2026-2027/ IND0202 | Supply of Rubber Glazing with Inserts (EPDM Rubber ) | Rs. 0.95 Crores | 16.05.2026 15:00 Hrs |
| 12 | KKRTC/2026-2027/ SE8258 | Identifying agency for providing IT Staff on Contract Basis to KKRTC | Rs. 1.14 Crores | 03.05.2026 15:00 Hrs |

All the details of Tender, Registration, Tender form documents etc. are available at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/**. Mail to **cospnekrtc@gmail.com or support@eprochelpdesk.com** for further information if required. Further, any addendum /corrigendum related to changes in terms and conditions of tender, specification and calendar of events etc. will be uploaded only through KPP portal.

DIPR/Kalaburagi/41/KSMC&A/2026-27

**Sd/- Controller of Stores and Purchases**
**(Tender Inviting Authority)**

MELBOURNE

## Australian former soldier gets bail on Afghanistan war crime charges

REUTERS

Australia's most decorated living veteran, Ben Roberts-Smith, walked free on bail from a Sydney prison on Friday, 10 days after he was charged with war crimes in the killings of five people while serving in Afghanistan. The charges follows a report that SAS and commando regiment troops unlawfully killed 39 Afghan civilians. AP

COLOMBO

## Sri Lanka repatriates survivors of U.S. torpedo attack on Iranian ship

REUTERS

Sri Lanka sent home 238 Iranian sailors, including 32 who survived a U.S torpedo attack that sank their ship in the Indian Ocean, officials said. A U.S. submarine sank the *IRIS Dena* on March 4 while the ship was returning home from a naval exercise hosted by India. A second Iranian ship docked at a Sri Lankan port after technical problems. AP

WASHINGTON

## IMF, World Bank restore relations with Venezuela; detainees released

REUTERS

Venezuela freed 46 political prisoners, detainees' families said on Thursday, in the latest release after the U.S. ouster of leader Nicolas Maduro. Meanwhile, the IMF and World Bank said they are restoring relations with the South American country, further legitimising the interim government and opening doors to financial support. AFP

GENEVA

## Rohingya sea crossings hit record death toll in 2025, UN report says

AFP

Last year was the deadliest on record for Rohingya refugees fleeing by sea, the UN said on Friday. In 2025, nearly 900 Rohingya refugees were reported missing or dead in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal, the UNHCR said. The report came days after a boat carrying about 280 Rohingya refugees had capsized in the Andaman Sea. AFP

# Truce in effect as Trump says Israel 'prohibited' from bombing Lebanon

'Israel will not be bombing Lebanon any longer; enough is enough,' says U.S. leader, adding that Washington would work with Beirut to 'deal with Hezbollah'; displaced residents stream towards southern Lebanon after the truce came into force

**Agence France-Presse**
LAS VEGAS

President Donald Trump said on Friday the United States had "prohibited" Israel from bombing Lebanon following a ceasefire deal, adding that Washington would work with Lebanon to "deal with" Hezbollah.

"Israel will not be bombing Lebanon any longer. They are PROHIBITED from doing so by the U.S.A. Enough is enough!!!" Mr. Trump said on his Truth Social network, a day after announcing the 10-day truce. The ceasefire took effect on Friday, sending displaced residents streaming south towards their homes, even as the Lebanese Army warned of "a number of violations" in the area.

**Homebound:** Children gesture from a vehicle as displaced people drive back to their neighbourhoods near Tyre in Lebanon. REUTERS

Shortly after the truce went into effect at midnight local time, the Army told residents of the south – many of whom had to flee their homes following sweeping Israeli evacuation warnings – not to return, citing "several Israeli acts of aggression".

Nonetheless, packed cars headed southwards before dawn, and crossed at sunrise what was left of a bridge bombed by Israel during the war.

In his first speech to the nation since the truce, Lebanese President Joseph Aoun said his country was no longer an "arena" for anyone's wars and that it was on the verge of a "new phase" of "permanent agreements".

The ceasefire represents a key step in Washington's efforts to reach a deal to end its war with Iran, with Tehran insisting a Lebanon truce must be part of any agreement.

Mediator Islamabad has been leading the international push to restart face-to-face talks between Tehran and Washington with Mr. Trump signalling he might fly to Pakistan to sign any agreement.

The fighting in Lebanon broke out on March 2 when Tehran-backed Hezbollah fired rockets at Israel just a few days after the start of the war in retribution for the death of Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei in the opening waves of U.S.-Israeli strikes.

Traffic accumulated kilometres away from the only bridge connecting the coastal region south of Lebanon's Litani River to the rest of the country, as people lined up for hours waiting for a chance to return home.

As the ceasefire came into effect, Israel's military said it had struck over 380 Hezbollah targets in southern Lebanon and was on "high alert" to resume strikes.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the ceasefire offered an opportunity for a "historic peace agreement" with Beirut – but insisted that the disarmament of Hezbollah remained a precondition.

Mr. Trump said Hezbollah was included in the ceasefire, but according to the U.S. State Department, the truce committed Lebanon itself to dismantle the Iran-backed militant group.

# Starmer faces calls to resign as Mandelson row reignites

**Associated Press**
LONDON

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Friday resisted demands he resign over revelations that his scandal-tainted pick for U.K. Ambassador to Washington was appointed despite failing security checks.

Mr. Starmer says he was not informed that the Foreign Office had overruled the recommendation of security officials in 2025 not to give Peter Mandelson the job. Many considered Mr. Mandelson a risky appointment because of his past friendship with convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

Mr. Starmer fired Mandelson in September 2025 after evidence emerged that he had lied about the extent of his links to Epstein.

Mr. Starmer said he was "absolutely furious" that he had been kept in the dark, calling it "staggering" and "unforgivable."

Keir Starmer

He said he would "set out all the relevant facts in true transparency" to Parliament on Monday.

**Another official quits**

The top Foreign Office civil servant, Olly Robbins, took the fall for the decision and resigned.

Opposition politicians expressed disbelief that Mr. Starmer could have been unaware Mr. Mandelson had failed security vetting.

Darren Jones, the Chief Secretary to the Prime Minister, said on Friday that "the recommendation was to not appoint Peter Mandelson to the role," and that the Foreign Office ignored it. He said that was "astonishing," but within the rules.

Mr. Jones said the checks, carried out by a department known as U.K. Security Vetting, "go through financial, personal, sexual, religious and other types of background information, and that is why it is kept private on a portal that only a few people have access to."

Opposition Conservative Party leader Kemi Badenoch said claims the Prime Minister did not know were "completely preposterous."

Documents released by the government in March showed Mr. Starmer ignored red flags raised by his staff about the appointment. He was warned that Mr. Mandelson's friendship with Epstein, who died in prison in 2019, exposed the government to "reputational risk."

# Myanmar ex-President freed, Suu Kyi's sentence reduced

**Agence France-Presse**
YANGON

Myanmar's former President Win Myint, detained since a 2021 military coup, was freed on Friday under a mass amnesty which, according to a source close to pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi, also reduced her sentence.

The pardon order applied to more than 4,000 prisoners.

Mr. Win Myint and Ms. Suu Kyi, the 80-year-old Nobel Peace Prize laureate, led Myanmar during a decade-long experiment with civilian rule that was abruptly halted by the coup.

Mr. Win Myint, who served from 2018, was pardoned of convictions handed down during the post-putsch period of military rule and released on Friday, a spokesman for his party said.

Aung San Suu Kyi

Ms. Suu Kyi meanwhile remains detained, serving a sentence rights groups decry as a politically motivated move to hobble her National League for Democracy (NLD) party.

A source close to her legal case said that Ms. Suu Kyi's 27-year sentence had been cut as part of the amnesty.

The order announced by Min Aung Hlaing – the coup leader who ousted Ms. Suu Kyi's government and was sworn in last week as civilian President– to reduce the remaining terms of all sentences under 40 years by one-sixth "also applies to her", the source said.

It is unclear how much of her term was considered served before the commutation order.

UN rights chief Volker Turk said that "all those detained unjustly since the coup, including Ms. Suu Kyi, need to be released immediately and unconditionally".

**Death penalties**

Min Aung Hlaing on Friday also commuted all death sentences and ordered the release of more than 4,300 prisoners in an amnesty to mark Myanmar's new year – one of many public holidays when mass pardons are commonly made. But Mr. Win Myint's pardon is perhaps the most significant climb-down so far.

## *Fire and smoke*

A satellite image shows smoke rising from the Tuapse oil refinery of in Tuapse, Russia. Firefighters continued extinguishing a blaze more than 24 hours after Ukrainian drone attacks, local authorities said. The attack on Thursday killed two people, including a 14-year-old girl. Ukraine's military said it had struck two oil depots in Russian-controlled Crimea and infrastructure in Tuapse. AFP

# China decries Japanese ship transiting Taiwan Strait

**BEIJING**
REUTERS

China said it monitored a Japanese warship's transit in the Taiwan Strait on Friday, calling the move "a deliberate provocation" as Beijing's ties with Tokyo remain fraught.

Japanese destroyer *JS Ikazuchi* transited the Taiwan Strait, and the Chinese military forces monitored the vessel throughout the process, a Chinese military spokesperson said in a statement.

Japan's dispatch of a military vessel into the Taiwan Strait, as "a display of force" and "a deliberate provocation", marks a "mistake upon mistake" and threatens China's sovereignty and security, Guo Jiakun, a spokesperson for China's Foreign Ministry said.

# Sri Lanka's Energy Minister resigns amid graft allegations

**Meera Srinivasan**
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's Energy Minister, Kumara Jayakody, resigned from his position on Friday amid mounting opposition over allegations of corruption and substandard coal procurement.

This resignation came as President Anura Kumara Dissanayake appointed a commission to probe irregularities in coal imports.

A statement from the President's office said the Minister, along with the Secretary to the Ministry, resigned to "facilitate an impartial and independent investigation".

An earlier statement from the Presidential Media Division said the commission was tasked with examining whether any irregularities or unlawful acts occurred in coal imports and in the generation of electricity by the State-owned Lanka Coal Company (Private) Limited or its successors.

In late March, Minister Jayakody was granted bail by the Colombo High Court after indictments were served

Kumara Jayakody

against him in a corruption case. According to the indictment, Mr. Jayakody is accused of causing a loss of over LKR 8.8 million to the government in 2016, while serving at Lanka Fertiliser Company, by favouring a private company in a procurement process.

The indictment triggered sharp criticism from members of the political Opposition and civil society, who reminded the Dissanayake government and the ruling National People's Power (NPP) administration of their key pre-poll promise of wiping out corruption.

The Opposition tabled a No Confidence Motion against the Minister last week, but it was defeated in Parliament, where the ruling NPP enjoys a supermajority.

Until Friday, senior figures in government appeared to back the Energy Minister, dismissing the corruption allegations as unsubstantiated. However, calls for Mr. Jayakody's resignation grew louder, with heightening media attention on the issue.

Last week, local newspaper *Daily FT* said in its editorial: "The Government's moves to defend Mr. Jayakody in spite of serious and grave allegations against him would undoubtedly undermine its credibility and reputation."

**CSIR-CENTRAL BUILDING RESEARCH INSTITUTE**
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